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# African Violet MAGAZINE

September • October 2004 Volume 57 Number 5

# AVSA Information

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITHIN YOUR SOCIETY

FOR ACCURATE SERVICE, SEND YOUR INQUIRIES TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE EFFECTIVE OCT. 1, 2002:**

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725 or 1-800-770-2872. Individual $25.00, USA only; Individual, all other countries - $27.50; Commercial USA $37.00; Commercial International - $38.75; Life (USA) - $300.00. International Life $375.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

**AFFILIATES:** Chapter - $27.00; Council, State or Region - $27.00.

**MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION:** Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Carolee Carter, 10947 SW 71st Circle, Ocala, FL 33476. *E-mail* carolee37@earthlink.net

**AFFILIATES:** For information on Affiliates or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 7992 Otis Way, Pensacola, FL 32506. *E-mail* promers22@hotmail.com

**AVSA OFFICE:** Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST. *E-mail* avsa@earthlink.net

**AVSA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:** Dr. Elmer Godeny, 7004 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

**BEST VARIETIES:** HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 20719 Madrona Ave., Torrance, CA 90503.

**BOOSTER FUND:** Send contributions to Shirley Berger, 4343 Schumacher Rd. - 196E, Sebring, FL 33872-2639.

**BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND:** Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17235 N. 106th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85373-1958.

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND:** Send contributions to Mary Walbrick, 5235 Kingston Dr., Wichita Falls, TX 76310-3029.

**COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES:** Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

**COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS:** For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Dr., Olathe, KS 66062-3004.

**CONVENTION AWARDS:** Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Sue Hoffmann, 2809 Forest Hills Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23454-1236.

**CONVENTION PROGRAM:** Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Linda Owens, Convention Director, 1762 Stemwood Drive, Columbus, OH 43228. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

**FUTURE CONVENTION DATES:** Cincinnati, OH - April 17-24, 2005.

**CULTURE FOLDERS:** (postpaid): 100 to 400 - $10.50 per 100; 500 to 900 - $9.25 per 100; 1000 and over - $7.00 per 100.

**SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER:** (postpaid): 500 to 1,000 $23.00 per 500; 1,500 and up $21.00 per 500.

**JUDGE'S DUPLICATE CARD:** Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

**JUDGING SCHOOL:** To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of $15 is required.

**LIBRARY:** Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in September issue. Requests must be in writing. List top 3 choices. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Ann Nicholas, 3113 Deerfield Dr., Denton, TX 76208-3428.

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**ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS:** Send to Editor.

**Please Note: Deadlines** - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

**COMING EVENTS:** Send to Editor.

**Coming Events Deadlines:** - Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sept. 1.

**ADVERTISING MANAGER:** Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012. *E-mail* avmads@valornet.com

**ADVERTISING DEADLINES:** Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 1; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 1; May/June issue - Mar. 1; July/Aug. issue - May 1; Sept./Oct. issue - July 1; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 1.

**"AND THE WINNERS ARE...":** Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

**BACK ISSUES:** Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

**QUESTION BOX:** Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512. *E-mail* robsviolet@aol.com and Sue Haffner, 3015 Timmy Ave, Clovis, CA 93612-4849. *E-mail* sueh@csufresno.edu

**MASTER VARIETY LIST:**

**MVL SUPPLEMENTS:** will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Joe Bruns, 1220 Stratford Lane, Hanover Park, IL 60130.

**MEMBERSHIP CARDS:** Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

**OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE:** AVSA Secretary, Nancy Hayes, 9 Cobblestone Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002-3003.

**PLANT REGISTRATION:** Janice Bruns, 1220 Stratford Ln., Hanover Park, IL 60203-2667. *E-mail* janice@qwip.net

**QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING:** Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. Web site: avsa.org

**RESEARCH:** Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith, 3014 W. Amherst Rd., Muncie, IN 47304.

**SHOW ENTRY TAGS:** 100 - $8.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

**SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER:** For information on Shows, AVSA Awards and Approving Schedules write to: Patricia Sutton, 5341 S. 73 E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74145. *E-mail* sutpa01@worldnet.att.net. **Do not send Show Schedules by E-mail - this address is for information ONLY.**

**TALLY TIME:** Heather Menzel, 135 N. Main St., Yardley, PA 19067. *E-mail* hmenzel@erols.com

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September • October Volume 57 Number 5

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**Warm Sunshine**
Best New Cultivar
2004 AVSA National Show
Exhibited by: **Paul Sorano**
Hybridized by:
**Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses**
Standard

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

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The African Violet Society of America, Inc. — Org. 1946


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**Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.**

# President's Message

Dear AVSA Members,

Many parts of the country have endured another hot summer. In some places, such as east Texas in June, there was also a great deal more rain than usual. I hope wherever you reside, you have managed to provide the indoor environment that your plants enjoy the most. If they have struggled to survive the summer, the cooler weather which is coming should help them revive.

Now that autumn is around the corner, local and regional affiliates will be starting their fall programs and shows. If you live close enough to attend one of these groups, by all means do so. You'll have an opportunity to participate in their events and enjoy sharing your horticultural experiences with others who have similar interests.

After a summer of relative inactivity, AVSA officers will be busy this fall. An Executive Committee meeting is scheduled at the end of October (to avoid conflict with several regional council conventions). It will be in Beaumont this year with a visit to the office on the agenda. If you have concerns that you would like us to address, please contact one of us soon. Our email addresses are in the front of the *African Violet Magazine*. Remember, AVSA is working to be better so if you have an idea that can help, please share it with us.

A major change took place in the AVSA Office in July. Kelle Espinoza, who had been our receptionist and Jenny's assistant, gave her notice in order to take another job. We have hired a replacement, Mandy Meza, who started on July 19th. If you have occasion to call the office, she will likely answer the phone. Please make her welcome. We hope she enjoys her association with us.

I have heard from Tom Glembocki that a CD of pictures from the Tucson convention in April has been completed and should be available from the office in September. The first two CDs that he created, one of pictures from the Washington, DC, convention in 2002, and the other of pictures from Baton Rouge last year, are excellent. They are wonderful mementos of good times and beautiful shows. The photographs of the plants were just gorgeous. You will want one for yourself and they make nice gifts for your violet friends. Tom also told me that AVSA has gone "high tech" taking photographs at the Tucson convention digitally. Some of them will be converted to 35mm slides that can be rented from the office for programs at affiliate meetings.

It isn't too early to give some thought to attending convention in the Cincinnati area next April. The Ohio group is busy preparing to host the event, and plans for the presentations sound wonderful. Let's all start saving our pennies to go, visit with our violet friends, and buy those newest introductions. See you there.

Happy violeting.

Janet

Janet Riemer
President, AVSA

# Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey
*AVM Editor*
2375 North Street
Beaumont, TX 77702
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The annual listing of AVSA Judges, Affiliates, and Commercial Members will no longer be included as an insert in the September/October African Violet Magazine. However, this valuable information will be available to our membership in two other convenient ways.

For those of you with computer access and email, you may email the office avsa@earthlink.net for a password that you will use to download the list from the AVSA website, www.avsa.org. **DO NOT CALL THE OFFICE FOR THIS PASSWORD. IT WILL ONLY BE GIVEN OUT BY EMAIL.**

If you do not have computer access or email, please send one dollar ($1.00) to the AVSA Office, 2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702, to cover postage and handling. The complete list will be mailed to you.

The ideal situation would be to have club members download the list from the web site and print out copies for those members of their clubs who do not have computer access.

The AVML listing that comprises the insert usually found in the November/December AVM will also no longer appear in the African Violet Magazine. This listing of the newly registered cultivars from the previous year will also be available in these two ways, although you will not need a password to download from the web site when it becomes available in November.

This may seem to be quite a change to some of our members, but with the rising costs of paper, ink, etc., we're trying to find ways to reduce our production budget without having to pass the costs on to our membership. I think this is a very positive way to go. If you have questions, please contact me at the address above, or by email.

My apologies to **Mary McFarland** of Baton Rouge, LA. In the July listing of Special Society Awards, Mary was listed as a Senior Judge. Actually, Mary is a Master Judge.

I recently heard from **Bill Meier**, Webmaster of the Illinois African Violet Society:

"The Illinois African Violet Society has taken on a project that we feel will benefit the entire African violet community. Many times, an African violet group needs to locate a speaker for an event. Until now, there has not been a central, national list of speakers and presenters available. Joe Bruns and I recently decided that our web-based African violet Speakers List project was ready for its debut.

"The site is open to all folks interested in lending their time and expertise to the African violet community. It is simply a way of listing the names and other pertinent information in a central location so that others, charged with locating program speakers, may have a database to assist in that search. This type of list is not uncommon among other organizations.

"The Illinois African Violet Society is simply managing the list as part of its established web presence. While the list is certainly small as one would expect during the initial stages of such a project, we hope it will grow as more folks realize its potential.

"We would appreciate any comments and we are happy to answer any questions." The list is located at http://www.iavs-online.org/speakers/.

One souvenir I picked up at the Tucson convention is the "Fiesta of Violets Southwest Cookbook" compiled by **Barbara Fuller**. The spiral-bound booklet is a collection of recipes from members of the Tucson AVS, the Desert Sun AVS, and the Albuquerque AVC, the clubs hosting the 2004 AVSA convention. I checked with Barbara, and she still has some available. If you're interested in trying a bit of Southwestern cooking, you may order the cookbook directly from Barbara. Send a check for $7.00 to Barbara Fuller, 409 S. Kenyon, Tucson, AZ 85710.

The fall shows are listed in Coming Events on page 43. Again, please adhere to the deadlines for AVM submissions listed in the inside front cover of each issue.

# Shows and Judges

**Bill Foster**
*Shows and Judges Committee*
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150
*email:*bpfoster@airmail.net

To become a Master Judge is the pinnacle, the apex, the top of the mountain. It is a long, tough climb. One must devote at least twenty-four years of their life to become a master judge. Please salute the following, who, in October 2004, will have reached the top of the mountain! **Genelle Armstrong**, Louisiana; **Eva Belliveau**, Canada; **Lenore Gugliada**, New York; **Hans Inpijn**, **Dorothy Kosowsky**, and **Jean Shipley**, California; **Kay Lyons**, Pennsylvania; **Louise Merritt**, Florida; **Martha Olander** and **Fran Ratté**, Colorado; **Trish Taylor**, Missouri; **Jesse R. Pittman** and **Mary Walbrick**, Texas.

Some have had questions concerning the statement, "An AVSA Standard Show is not an African violet section of a show sponsored by a garden club, horticulture society, or any other fair or exhibition." A "section" would not be an AVSA Standard Show. However, if any organization, fair, or exhibition offers space, tables, etc., with little or no cost to your Affiliate, get all the facts before rejecting the offer. The cost of staging a show is not cheap! As long as it is clear that your entire exhibit has its own space, an approved AVSA schedule, and is judged, autonomous to other exhibits, by AVSA judges, it is an AVSA Standard Show.

**Here are more discussions from the Tucson convention:**

*Q: Last year a judge refused to write comments, even on exhibits receiving red or white ribbons. How can the exhibitor learn without comments?*

**A:** No judge should refuse to write comments, especially on red and white ribbons, to inform the exhibitor where the exhibit was lacking. However, a single judge does not have the authority to dictate that comments will not be written. If you are a judge on such a panel, you have the right to make any comments you feel will be of help to the exhibitor. DO NOT BE DETERRED BY ANOTHER JUDGE! You might mention to the judges' chair which judge refused to write comments.

*Q: A design received a red ribbon and the only comment was "blossom fades into the background". Where and how many points would be deducted for this?*

**A:** I would assume, from the comment, points were deducted for contrast. There are 40 points allowed for the 8 elements and 6 principles of design. There should have been from 3 to 5 points deducted for the comment. Apparently the judges deducted points for something they did not comment on!

*Q: How can we prevent judges from voicing their opinion that minis and semis should not be considered for best-in-show?*

**A:** If you are a member of the panel, voice your own opinion. Refer the panel to page 90 of the Handbook and also to page 49, to the statement "size is not considered in merit judging". The highest scoring African violet in the show should be best-in-show regardless of size.

*Q: The judges recognized that a plant had been renamed to fit into a particular class. What should they have done?*

**A:** If the judges are sure of the proper name of the plant, they should suggest that the plant be moved to the proper class. The judges have the right to suggest this change, and if not changed, they have the right to refuse to judge the plant because it does not conform to the schedule.

*Q: How is it possible for a standard variegated plant to be best-in-show and another standard plant with green foliage to be selected as the best standard?*

**A:** This is an error on the part of the judges. A best-in-show, that is a standard variegated plant, should not only be best-in-show, but also best standard and best variegated foliage. The exception would be if there were awards for best variegated standard and best green standard.

**Please make these changes to your Handbook:**

**Page 35 - Under PROCEDURES FOR AN AVSA STANDARD SHOW, change the $5.00 to read $7.50.**

**Page 37 - Under Show Chairman, in the second paragraph, change $5.00 to $7.50.**

**These changes are effective on January 1, 2005. With any schedules sent for 2005, include $7.50 for each set of collection rosettes.**

Remember to send an award for the 2005 convention show and start saving now to attend the convention!

# In Search of New Violets

**Dr. Jeff Smith**
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
*email:* JSmith4@bsu.edu

One of the most exciting yet frustrating things for a hybridizer is to select which seedlings to grow up and evaluate. African violets can be very prolific with their seed, sometimes producing several hundred in a single fruit or seed pod. If the germination is high, there may easily be more seedlings than the grower has space. So which seedlings do you choose? How do you find the one unique plant out of all of those available? This month's column may give you some things to consider as you make your choices.

**Q:** *Are there any advantages to selecting seedlings with unusual foliage when choosing plans to pot up from the germination tray?*

**A:** If one of your hybridizing goals is to look for new and different plants, then this strategy should give you a number of interesting seedlings to evaluate. Sometimes an unusual trait in a seedling is caused by the crowded cultural conditions in the germination tray. When the seedlings are moved out to separate pots and have space to develop properly, these unusual traits may disappear as the plant grows and matures. Foliage traits such as ruffles and toothed edges may not appear until the plant has developed six or more leaves. Since the traits in the early seedlings may be very different than those in the mature plant, I would encourage you to pot up as many seedlings as space permits. The more seedlings you evaluate, the higher the chance of getting a plant that is something new and exciting.

**Q:** *The flowers on some of my new seedlings are deformed. Is this a genetic trait or will they outgrow the problem with better culture?*

**A:** Unless you know that the deformities are due to a culture problem such as damage from a pesticide spray, I'm afraid that it is unlikely that the flowers will improve with the age of the plant. There are a number of genetic traits that work together to make the flowers. Sometimes the combination of the traits produces a deformed flower. If the cause is genetic, the plant will continue to produce deformed flowers.

Do these seedlings come from a cross with yellow flowered violets? Deformed flowers are often linked with yellow color, and many seedlings will have to be discarded because of the problem.

**Q:** *I would like to get yellow flowers on mosaic foliage. Should I develop each trait separately before working on combining the traits together?*

**A:** No, I would suggest that you work with both traits together in order to save time. I would choose a good mosaic foliage plant to serve as the seed parent. Choose your best yellow flowered plant to be the pollen parent. If possible, use a mosaic plant with light or pale flower colors as this should help getting back the yellow color easier. Your F1 plants will likely be non-variegated and have the flower color of the mosaic parent. Choose two best F1 plants and cross them together for the F2 generation. Or, self-pollinate your best F1 plant. Both mosaic foliage and yellow color inherit as genetic recessives and should re-appear in the F2 generation. However, the number of plants with the combination will be very low so be sure to plant a large number of seeds.

One way that you can save space is to "cheat" in the way you select plants in the F2 generation. Allow the seedlings to develop their first true leaves before transplanting. Mosaic foliage will often show up in the first leaves or even the cotyledons (seed leaves). If you select and only transplant seedlings that show variegation, you'll be selecting for one of your desired traits. With luck, a few of these will have yellow flowers giving you the second trait.

To work separately on each trait would require 1-2 generations for each trait then another 1-2 generations when you combine the traits together. Since each generation requires about a year from pollination to blooming plant, working with both traits together will save you years of time.

Good luck with this hybridization goal and be sure to send me a leaf.

**Q:** *How many generations would it take to get yellow wasp flowers?*

**A:** This cross is very similar to the previous question and actually came from a separate source. I would think that a yellow wasp could be hybridized in two generations. Start with a good wasp flowered plant and a strong yellow flowered plant. 'Pink Fly' might make a good parent as the pink flower color would be a little easier to work with than blue. Wasp flowers are a dominant genetic trait. Around half of the F1 generation should have wasp flowers, but probably not in yellow. Backcross a nice F1 wasp flowered plant to the yellow parent. This cross will reinforce the yellow color in the seedlings (approximately 50%) and the wasp trait will still be carried through in about half of the offspring. The odds of a yellow and wasp together should be around 25%.

If you want to try for something even more exotic, try combining this cross with star shaped blooms. Many of the yellow flowered plants have star shaped flowers so the trait would be easy to introduce into the cross. The combination of star shape and wasp produces flowers with highly divided petals in the shape of a star. The effect resembles fingers that are widely spread open on your hands. If you follow this plan, the odds of getting a yellow wasp star would be around 10-15%.

Good luck with your work on wasp flowers. This unusual flower shape has seen a recent surge in popularity and a number of hybridizers are experimenting with the trait. The pictures of some of the early results that have been shared on the web are very encouraging.

**Q:** *What can I expect in working with ruffled foliage?*

**A:** Ruffled foliage is caused when the edges of the leaf blade continue to grow longer than they should. The result is more cells and leaf material. The extra material has to go somewhere, and the result is that the leaf blade will develop folds or ruffles. The trait appears to be caused by the loss of a control gene that normally shuts down cell division in the leaf edge cells. The loss of the control gene acts as a dominant trait. A plant with ruffled foliage can be expected to pass on the trait to about half of its offspring which will usually express the trait in their first 4-6 leaves. Crossing two ruffled plants together will give you mostly ruffled offspring and a few non-ruffled plants. A few of the ruffled plants will have two copies of the mutation and will usually show a much higher degree of ruffled edges. Some growers find the double ruffled plants attractive, but their foliage can be difficult to shape for show. Most of today's cultivars have been selected for the single ruffled gene.

# Education Table

by Bill Paauwe, West Sayville, NY
*(formerly Proprietor, Violets By Appointment)*

During our local show this year, I did something I've always wanted to do. My wife and I are long-time members of the Sweet Water African Violet Society, and have been actively involved in the set-up phase of our annual show. My wife manually handled the duties of Entries Chairman, while I performed the duties of Classification Chair. This entailed very late nights at the dining room table preparing class tally sheets and other related paperwork. For two years now, we have used the AVSA entries program, which we cannot praise highly enough. This completely freed my wife to do other jobs (she chose 'Plant Placement') while I looked longingly at the Education Table.

Another member was responsible for setting up the actual display, which included the usual array of plant and material examples, as well as every kind of brochure imaginable. I decided to take a turn at manning the table. This function had been done in the past but had been neglected for a couple of years. I simply sat at a table and physically potted up baby plants from 'Mother' leaves, which were pleading for relief. People are naturally curious so they stopped by to ask what I was doing. This proved to be a real 'door-opener'. Questions about how to keep their plants in constant bloom brought up advice about the necessity for regular fertilizing and periodic repotting. This led to 'necks' and what to do about them and questions about soil and products used. This in turn led to trips to the 'Supplies' sales table where everything I referred to was for sale. This was my golden opportunity since I have lectured about African violet basics for several years at Federated Garden Clubs, etc. In fact, recently I did a lecture at our local public library, at which I handed out complimentary tickets to the show. All but one of these persons attended our show. (They've already booked me for next year!) Most of the time, I had at least four or five people and, at times, folks standing three-deep craning their necks. One member of our club came over to the table to find out what it was that I was telling these people!

I had a steady stream of people for the entire run of the show. We had a sign-up sheet for people who wanted to be notified about the next year's show, as well as membership information for our club and AVSA.

This 'job' is made to order for an older, experienced member of the club who really needs a 'sit-down' job. Experience is very necessary in order to avoid disseminating incorrect or misleading information. Try it at your next show and you will find it to be enormously successful.

# Principles of Good Leadership

Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Committee*
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The previous columns (January and May, 2004) discussed the principles and guidelines for members' performances in their jobs and/or chairmanships in an affiliate. Now that the members know how to do their part, it should be easier to find the right leader, the President. All too often, affiliates have difficulty talking a member into accepting the presidency because it is too much work. It is only too much work when the other members do not do their jobs and/or when the President does not know or understand the principles of good leadership. This column will address the principles of good leadership.

1. The President needs to acknowledge the goals and purpose of AVSA as the goals and purpose of the affiliate. The goals listed in *The African Violet Society of America Handbook For Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges* are to:
    1. provide a convenient association for people interested in African violets
    2. stimulate interest in propagation and culture of African violets
    3. promote distribution of all varieties and species among members and others interested in growing them
    4. publish reliable, practical information about plants and the organization
2. The President must abide by the club bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order (if listed in the bylaws) to transact business. A good leader follows a recommended order of business and allows the members to make the decisions. Becoming President should not entitle a person to run the club meetings to his/her liking. That's a dictatorship! The President should not only refrain from expressing his/her own opinions, but also should only vote in the event of a tie vote among the membership. The only way in which a President has the right to express an opinion is by stepping down from the presidency and asking the Vice President or other member to take the leadership of the meeting.
3. The President needs to motivate the club members by illustrating personal interest and enthusiasm. The mood and emotion of the President will rub off on the members and will set the mood and general feeling of the individual members and club as a whole. The president should generate optimism, support, enthusiasm, sharing, caring, and an interest in learning.
4. The President should set an example of good leadership qualities both behind and in front of the podium. He/she should illustrate appropriate actions during the programs and at activities when not in a leadership position. In a sense, even the president of an affiliate is like a "fish in a glass bowl".
5. The President should be thankful and show appreciation to others for their efforts. It is important that the President recognize the work others do even if their work does not measure up to that of some. No president **can** or **should** do all the work. The members learn by doing. They do not need an example of the President's doing all the work. As easy as it is sometimes to do the work oneself, the members should not get used to it because it becomes habitual. That's when it becomes difficult to convince others to assume the job of the presidency. The President needs to be alert to the experience and ability of the club members and educate and assist them whenever needed.
6. The President needs to be an example of a good club member and encourage other members to do the same. The President should begin by following the principles and guidelines set forth in the previous two Affiliate columns: 1-Accept the right job, 2-plan ahead, 3-do the job, 4-follow through, 5-don't assume, check, 6-go the extra mile. The combination of the two sets of principles are the basis of good leadership.

As a club member, you may not possess the six principles of good leadership. Does that mean you can't be a good leader? No! You may inherently possess some or many of the desired characteristics. With discipline and a sincere desire to be a good leader, you can train yourself to adopt most or all of the remaining characteristics. Forget about yourself and concentrate on the members and the goals of AVSA and your affiliate.

The Affiliate column in the May issue of the AVM had to be shortened due to space. Any of you who did not receive my email and wish to receive a complete copy of the column with all of the examples, please email me or snail mail me for a copy. I can send it in the text of the email, as an attachment in Word format or by snail mail if you send me a SASE.

# WICKING 101

by Nancy Robitaille

There are many methods growers use for watering their plants. One of those which saves lots of time is the wicking method.

First you need a container. That's easy enough. Search though your refrigerator. You can use margarine containers, pickle bottles, or refrigerator containers. I use all types of containers, mostly Glad refrigerator containers. The different heights of the pickle jars and other plastic containers give different heights to your plants so spacing is easier.

Once you have a few containers on hand, cut a small one-inch circle out of the lid. This serves to slip the wick through and to refill the container when necessary.

Wicks can be made of knitting thread, either acrylic or nylon. Cotton or other natural materials seem to rot much faster. The easiest and cheapest for me is cutting up old nylon stockings – pantyhose. Just cut off the toe of each leg, then cut half inch strips going across the leg of the pantyhose. This gives a nylon circle which can be cut and stretched to about 6-8 inches.

Wicks must be soaked in water before using or the capillary action will not begin.

Take a wet wick, put it on the end of a wooden barbecue skewer, and from the bottom, push up through the soil on the side of the pot. When the wick has reached the top, grasp it with two fingers while taking the skewer out with the other hand. Now the plant is ready to be set upon the container which holds water and fertilizer.

A second way to insert wicks is to thread the wick through an empty pot then place the plant in the pot. Arrange the top of the wick so that soil covers it; otherwise it could dry out.

Water containers last about two weeks. Check occasionally to make sure the wick is damp and working as it should. Wipe green algae from pots when refilling.

# A Very Successful AVSA Auction

by Edna Rourke

What can I say but thank you, thank you to the many generous donors and successful bidders who made our Friday Auction in Tucson such a great success? With your support we made over $5,900!

Special thanks to our auctioneer, Jack Wilson who, as always, make our auction fun, lively, and interesting. To our auction staff – Charlene Boyce, Alice Easter, Libbie Glumbocki, Laurel and Winston Goretsky, Sue Hoffman, Bill Price, Beverly Promersberger, Barbara Pershing, Fran Ratté, and Roger Wheeler my gratitude for your help and support; to Ruth Rumsey, our AVSA Editor, and to Jenny Daugereau, our AVSA Office Manager, who helped all year long, recorded, collected and kept track of all the bidding – my heart felt thanks; very special thanks to Charlene Boyce and my husband – for their tireless work and help behind the scene all year long.

To our many generous donors: Pauline Bartholomew, Marcia Belisle, Shirley Berger, Lillian Blanchik, Marjorie Bullard, Barbara Burde, Jan Davidson, Alice Easter, Elsa Ezell, Foot Hill AVS, Agatha Garrison, Elmer Godney, Linda Golubski, Gwen Goodship, Ovella Hall, Pat Hancock, Nancy Hayes, Jackie Jones, Vladimir Kalgin, Gini McCanne, Hortense Pittman, Bill Price, Fran Ratte, Janet Reimer, Margaret and Tom Savage, Paul Sorano, Anne Tinari, Felicia Troup, Mary Walbrick, Laurie Walton, Pat Wilson, a huge thank you for your generous donations – we couldn't have done it without you.

Last, but certainly not least, to all of our successful winning bidders, thank you for your support. Without your enthusiasm and generosity this auction wouldn't have been possible.

Information about next year's auction will appear in coming issues of the African Violet Magazine. I'm looking forward to seeing you in Cincinnati. Good Growing!

# Question Box

**Ralph Robinson**
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Naples, NY 14512
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Rain, rain, go away. It's been a wet spring, and it hasn't stopped yet. Being located near the top of the hill, we haven't had to deal with flooding (just some leaking), but two of the three roads adjoining our place have been partly (or entirely) washed-away. It seems to have rained (heavily) nearly every day for the last month. As for the plants, the poor violets growing (or trying to grow) in the greenhouse haven't seen sunshine for just as long. The only blooms we're seeing lately are on the plants grown under lights. Such is the life of a farmer, never the perfect light, temperature, water.....whatever. Finally, conditions are right and the crop is growing....hey! What's that chewing on the leaves?! I guess overcoming the challenges is what makes it fun - and provides material for a column like this one.

As is always the case, we are far too busy to reply to mail (or e-mail), though we do read all of it. Should you want a personal reply, we are more than willing to answer phone calls made during our normal business hours (12-5 pm EST), since we can work and talk at the same time. For those with access to the Internet, we can be reached at robsviolet@aol.com or via our web-site at www.robsviolet.com. The web-site also contains a wealth of cultural information.

***QUESTION:*** *How do you sterilize soil? Is it necessary?*

**ANSWER:** Though used interchangeably, the correct term is "pasteurize", since you only want to kill the harmful organisms, not the beneficial ones necessary to process the nutrients in the soil and make them available to your plants. This is something that most growers routinely did, but rarely do any longer. Back in the "old days" when growers often used topsoil in their potting mixes (often digging it from their backyard), harmful organisms and pests posed a real problem. "Baking" soil was a common practice back then. Today, most growers use soilless mixes (peat-based, containing no topsoil), and most of the prepared mixes commercially available are relatively safe to use without pasteurizing.

Nevertheless, if you choose to, here's how you should proceed. The key is applying enough heat to the potting mix for a long enough period of time, but not so much as to "sterilize" your mix. The most common method is to "bake" the mix in your kitchen oven. To do this, pre-moisten the mix (damp, but not soggy), putting the mix into a preheated oven at 180F degrees, and covering the mix to retain the hot steam. For the mix to be properly pasteurized, it must be thoroughly heated to 180F degrees - you can use a meat thermometer to measure the internal temperature of the mix. Once the center of the mix reaches this temperature, turn off the oven and let mix cool while in the oven. A microwave oven can be used, and the same principles apply-make sure it is heated to 180 degrees. We've also known a few growers to chemically pasteurize their potting mix, something we would strongly advise you not to do, since you'll have to handle the same soil later-you don't want to be one of the organisms being eliminated!

Personally, we don't do this, since we use soil in too large a volume to pasteurize it in this way. Besides, the ingredients we use (Pro-mix, vermiculite, perlite, charcoal) present few problems to begin with. In nearly 30 years, we've only been aware of one bag with "problems". Still, we do premoisten our soil mix, after the ingredients are mixed, with very hot water (as hot as it comes from the tap), adding 1 gallon of water for every 4 gallons of potting mix. Admittedly, this is an imperfect procedure, but it is something we can easily do for a large amount of soil (we mix 150 or more gallons at a time) and, we hope, eliminate a number of the most likely soil-borne problems.

***QUESTION:*** *I found some scale insects on the lower leaves of my Chirita 'Hisako'. The nursery where I bought the plant gave me some Neem oil. I was wondering if I should use it like a systemic and bottom water the plant*

*with it or spray the leaves or both. I don't like using harsh chemical pesticides, and any advice would be useful.*

**ANSWER:** We've never had scale on chiritas, but have seen it in the past on some of our orchids, or on plants we've gotten elsewhere. We're not sure how effective Neem would be on scale, though it certainly should help. We would use it as a spray, since it won't be effective as a systemic drench. Use it liberally, since it's fairly harmless to the plant and to yourself. For the scale that is obvious and easy to get at, touch them with rubbing alcohol, using a Q-tip. Be precise, since the alcohol will dry the plant tissue as well as the scale. After removing the mature scale in this manner, wash the plant thoroughly with soap and water. This is how we eliminated the problem on our infected orchids.

The good news is that scale doesn't tend to spread readily, and doesn't really like soft-tissued plants like violets and most other gesneriads, which would be more easily damaged by the procedures above. It seems to prefer plants with thicker, more leathery leaves, like orchids, ficus, and succulents (or your chirita, in this case). In any case, keep the infected plants isolated until you are sure you've gotten rid of all of the scale.

***QUESTION:** I have had problems with keeping water off the leaves of the minis. I bought some "violet pots" (2 pots in one) to keep from watering from the top, but it looks like the plants are getting too much water, and the perlite is getting a little green. Should I use these pots and just use a more perlite-heavy mixture and maybe add some orchid bark to it or what?*

**ANSWER:** It can be hard to water miniature violets from the top without getting the leaves wet, since most spouts on watering cans, or nozzles on hoses, are too big to get underneath their tiny leaves. We like to use a "turkey baster" for small watering jobs on the minis, since the tip is small enough to get between/underneath leaves, and the amount of water can be easily controlled.

The self-watering "violet pots" are wonderful, so long as they are used properly. These pots are usually an unglazed inner pot, inserted into a larger, glazed, outer pot. They can come in a variety of colors, shapes, and sizes, and add a "decorative touch" to your violets. The plant is potted into the inner pot (which is water absorbent) and, so long as the outer pot is kept filled with water, the soil stays damp and the plant is kept constantly watered. Underwatering, or forgetting to water, is no longer a problem, but too much water can be. Since the soil is kept constantly moist, it becomes even more important that the soil mix contains enough material, like perlite, that absorbs little water. Bark, since it will absorb less water than peat, would also be a good ingredient to add. The general rule is as follows – the wetter you intend to keep the soil, the lighter and more porous the soil mix should be. We recommend using at least 50% perlite in any mix used for constant-watering systems, such as violet pots. If you aren't presently using this amount of perlite, add more (or mix in some bark, if you choose).

As for the perlite turning green, this is one of the unfortunate drawbacks of using perlite in a self-watering system. Perlite is white, and you're keeping it constantly moist. Being less absorbent, and lighter, than most other soil ingredients, it also will tend to work its way to the surface of the soil. Being light-colored, wet, and exposed to light, it eventually will turn green with algae. For this, you might want to add a drop or two of Physan 20 to the water in the container. This algaecide is mild, relatively harmless to your plants (and you) when used properly, and should help control the growth of algae on the container and soil surface.

***QUESTION:** I use self-watering pots, and my violets seem to do well in them. My streptocarpus, though, don't seem very happy. Can I use these pots for my streps? (Got this call while typing the answer to the preceding question-what fortuitous timing!!)*

**ANSWER:** *Streptocarpus* are very easy to grow and bloom and, in many ways, are even easier to care for than violets. One thing they don't like, however, is constantly wet feet! Growing great streps is easy - "happy feet" mean a happy plant. This means using a very light, porous, soil mix, the proper size pot, and regular repotting. This also means using a soil mix that is even more porous than that used for violets, no matter how one chooses to water. Though we don't wick-water our streps, we grow them as if we do, using a "wicking" soil containing a little over 50% perlite in the mix. We top-water our mature streps, and such a porous mix allows us to water them thoroughly, yet still let the excess water easily drain from the pot and, should some water remain in the saucer, not present a problem. We also strictly adhere to the "dry to the touch" rule-not watering until the surface of the soil begins to feel dry. Don't make a habit of watering streps on a strict schedule, whether they need it or not. If they don't need watering, they'll resent it when you do. Streps will nearly always recover from wilting, sometimes even extreme wilting, but often won't from back-to-back overwaterings (that said, don't make a habit of letting them wilt, either).

Should you still want to use self-watering pots, wick-water, or otherwise keep your streps constantly wet, you can still succeed, but you absolutely must use a very light, porous, soil mix that contains well over 50% perlite, or other relatively nonabsorbent material. Be careful when watering newly repotted plants, too. The amount of water needed is determined by the size of the root system, not the size of the pot. For example, a plant repotted from a 3" into a 5" pot will need only the amount of water a 3" plant would need, not the volume of water needed to thoroughly wet a 5" pot of soil. Until the plant has begun to fill the larger pot with roots, it has no way to use all of that excess water. This is a drawback of using self-watering pots-all of the soil is kept wet, all of the time, whether or not the plant needs, or is able to use, all of this water. Of course, streps would be especially unhappy if this were the case. After repotting, it's better to top-water for

a couple of weeks, giving the plant a chance to grow a bit and produce a larger root system, before using any self-watering method. Remember, too, to repot your strep regularly. Streps are very vigorous growers, producing multiple crowns and lots of foliage, easily outgrowing their pots over time. Repot every 6 months, dividing them if necessary, pruning away some of the old foliage and roots, and adding fresh soil. Grown single-crowned, most varieties are comfortable in a 4-6" pot when mature. Grown multiple-crowned, larger pots can be used, but never use pots significantly larger than the existing root system, since this makes overwatering more likely.

# Less is More

by Kathy Garbarino

One of the biggest mistakes that a beginning grower of African violets can make is to have more plants than they can handle. The beginning grower is still learning the basics of plant culture. African violets are sturdy plants. They will stand up to a lot of abuse, but to get them to flower and produce the results you hope for, especially for show, takes practice and can often be frustrating, even more so if you have too many plants

Often, our eyes are bigger than our shelves! At my first club Christmas Bingo party, I came home with about sixty leaves. I was filled with excitement in anticipation of all the new varieties that I was going to have.

What I didn't realize was that in each of those leaves was the potential to have an average of three to five full grown plants, each with a shelf space of at least nine inches!

It soon became evident that one light stand was not going to be enough, and I hadn't even figured out the lighting yet! I started building more stands and the race was on!

What happens to many beginning growers is that they try to have the shelves to accommodate the number of plants that they acquire. The rationale should be just the opposite. Begin with one or two light stands, and let the plants fill the space that you have allotted them. Learn how to care for your plants and recognize what they need before you become overwhelmed and your enthusiasm turns to feelings of frustration.

For all beginners, I highly recommend the book, *Growing To Show* by Pauline Bartholomew. The book beautifully illustrates all aspects of growing African violets, for the hobby grower, as well as those growing for show. Pauline feels that African violet growers should make the plants fit the space you have, rather than expand your growing space to accommodate more plants. She states that attending to too many plants will stretch your time too thin, resulting in neglect of your plants, especially those grown for show. Think of whether you want this to be a hobby you enjoy, or real work that you eventually avoid.

As I write this, I am looking at the two trays of about 40 leaves I acquired from the NYS Convention of varieties I just HAD to have. They have all produced lots of babies and need to be dealt with.

I am looking at my own shelf space and thinking, do I practice what I preach?

From the *Empire Violet Magazine*,
publication of the New York State AVS, Inc.

## ATTENTION AFFILIATE SHOW CHAIRS

Effective January 1, 2005, the application fee will change from $5.00 to $7.50 for each set of collection rosettes. All schedules for 2005 shows should include the new fee of $7.50 for each set of collection rosettes requested. Also, please note that AVSA Schedule Approver, **Patricia Sutton**, has a new address: 5341 S. 73rd E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74145.

# The Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership

Each year, one very special person is honored by AVSA through the Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership. This is a person who has volunteered their time, talent, enthusiasm, and energy in the name of African violets. Over the years, they have helped their club repeatedly with sales, programs, the show, holding an office, making phone calls, and/or community education. This list could go on and on. We know there are many worthy candidates among our membership, but we must rely on you to tell us who they are.

Let us know who you believe fits this description. Nominate them for the Hudson Memorial Award. What a lovely way to say "thank you."

**Deadline for 2005 nominations is November 30, 2004.**

Have your club's secretary send a brief letter including information about the nominee (ex: how long they've been growing African violets and been a member of the club and AVSA, offices held, memberships to related groups, items of special interest) to:

**Sue Hoffmann**, *AVSA Awards Chairman*
2809 Forest Hills Court
Virginia Beach VA 23454
susan.hoffmann@juno.com
757-463-5383

# Vintage Violets

**Barbara Elkin**
*Vintage Violets Committee*
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# GIRLS

There are a few more "Girls" today than in the last ten years. Forty years ago, there were plenty of "girls", enough for everyone. At the Tucson Convention, I picked up some "Girls", mostly trailers though.

I was fortunate enough to get one of Olive Ma Robinson's fairly new "Girls" The foliage was typical "girl" with none of the bunching of the girls of the past. The edge is kinda pink with a dark green center. It's not listed yet, so I don't really know what to expect. Only time will tell. Her name is Ma's Melodie Girl. The other one I found was My Sue, a double dark blue star on miniature trailing "girl" foliage, hybridized by Brenton and registered by Shirley Sanders. I remember the first "Girl" I tried to grow in the mid seventies. It looked more like a head of curly endive. You wouldn't believe the suckers. Enough said. The newer "girls", I think, are better behaved than those of earlier days.

What is this all leading up to? There is a lady in Washington State looking for "Girl" Violets. She tells me she has over 100 already. There is a lengthy list of her "Wants" in this month of The AVSA Most Wanted Column. There is also a great demand for Baker and Dates; keep your eyes open and let me know if you have them.

## AVSA Most Wanted

Baby Girl Spoon
Baby Helen
Blue Albino Girl
Bonnie Lassie
Brilliant Lady
Buttons and Bows
Camellia
Candy Cane (hybridizer unknown)
Clementine
Comanche Maid
Conchita
Cornucopia
Dark Angel
Deleon Pixie
Deleon Posie
Diane
Double Orchid Girl
Double Orchid Splendor
Double Velvet Girl
Emperor Wilhelm
Fantasy Double Ann
First Recital
Flamingo Girl
Frathel's Most Precious
Gay Coquette
Gay Paree
Goddess of Love
Granger Gardens Blue Empress
Granger Gardens Fuchsia Bride
Helen Van Pelt Wilson
Hobnail Pink
Iceberg
Julie Marie
Kuhl's Roundelay
Lasswell's Girl Friday
Lasswell's Glacier Peak
Lavender Blue
Lavender Elfin Girl
Lilac Lassie
Little Amber (Ford)
Little Geneva Princess
Lucky Stripe
Lulu Belle
Michiko
Mine Alone
Miss Liberty
Moonlight and Roses
My Jubilation
Nobuko
Optimara Arkansas
Pilgrim Maid
Sailor's Delight
Sea Queen
Silver Token
Superman
Tinari's Wild Girl
Twinkle

# Analyze Your Air Movement

by Joyce Stork

Go into any serious violet collector's growing room and you will find fans. They may be at many levels and they may be blowing air in, out, down or up, but there will always be fans running 24 hours every day. Why?

Fans serve three primary purposes in good growing: 1) they stir air to make temperatures consistent throughout the room; 2) they balance out the humidity in the air; 3) they dry off the surface of the leaves and flowers.

**Even Temperatures**

Violets tend to grow most evenly and satisfactorily when the air temperature remains in a range of 70 - 75 degrees Fahrenheit. But violet growing areas can have different temperatures all over the room.

Many things can cause temperatures to vary from one corner to another. The type of fan needed to make that temperature more constant will also differ.

Simple science tells us that warm air rises and cool air falls, so it is natural for the floor to have cooler air and the space near the ceiling to be warmer. In this case, a ceiling fan is most useful to move the cool air down or bring the warm air up.

In many structures, it is not just the air that will vary in temperature! In buildings with no basement, the floor may tend to be cooler because it is in contact with earth. Conversely, a ceiling may be warmer because of solar heat from sunshine on the roof. Poorly insulated windows and exterior walls may also be warmer in the summer or cooler in the winter. These surfaces alter the temperature of the air that comes in contact with them. Fans that blow air horizontally in all directions will keep air moving away from these temperature-changing surfaces.

Many growers use air conditioning or heating systems to maintain the temperatures in their growing rooms at a consistent level. Heating and cooling vents alter air temperatures most dramatically near the point where the air blows into the room and less as the distance increases. Either ceiling or horizontal fans can be used to help move the air steadily into the entire room for a more even overall result. It may also be helpful to direct a fan so that air is blown out of the growing area (out a window or into another room) so that excessively warm or cool air is removed and the desired air is pulled into the room more effectively.

In violet growing rooms, fluorescent lights and dehumidifiers can produce a dramatic amount of heat. It is important to move the heated air away from the plants and into the general airspace. Small fans (often called "personal fans") that clip onto the shelves can be very helpful here.

**Even Humidity**

Temperature and humidity are closely linked. Just as the optimum temperature for African violets is 70-75 degrees Fahrenheit, the optimum relative humidity at that temperature is approximately 50%. The term 'relative humidity' describes the amount of moisture in the air compared to the maximum amount of moisture that air could hold at that temperature. As the temperature increases, the air will be able to retain increased amounts of water. When the warmed air temperature drops, the water vapor becomes more concentrated and relative humidity increases.

When air temperatures are the same throughout all parts of the room, the relative humidity will also be consistent. It is then possible to determine if it is necessary to add to, subtract from, or simply maintain the level of humidity that is present.

Many growers find that the growing room cools slightly at night when the fluorescent lights are turned off. It is especially important then that the air is stirred so that it cools evenly. Otherwise, pools of humid air can settle near the floor and around plants that are on the lowest shelves.

Pockets of humidity are likely to develop anywhere that water is standing, such as in wicking or matting trays. When plants are kept close together, this effect is substantially increased, since the air is trapped between plants and because plants themselves produce humidity as they grow. Small fans blowing horizontally across shelves will help to alleviate this problem, but adequate space between plants is also essential.

Why is it so important to keep an even level of humidity? It is because many fungal diseases and some insects thrive in damp air. When humidity is closely monitored and constantly stirred, these problems can be avoided or at least more easily controlled.

**Dry Surfaces**

When blossoms and leaves are damp, they provide a perfect environment for fungus growth, especially mildew and botrytis. The greatest danger comes when the night to daytime temperature varies significantly. When warm humid air contacts cool blossoms and leaves, moisture will condense on the surface where spores can adhere and grow rapidly.

Leaves also produce their own surface dampness. Water is released from the stomata on the leaves through the process of

transpiration. When plants are in hot sunshine, transpiration provides evaporative cooling that is similar to human perspiration. An additional benefit is that water is being pulled up through the roots as water evaporates out through the leaves. If this did not happen, plants would not be able to use fertilizer that was applied to the soil. When the moisture remains on the leaf surface, transpiration slows.

Fans that blow air horizontally across the leaves and blossoms will cause the moisture on the surface to evaporate. This cools the leaves and causes the roots to draw up water and nutrients. It also reduces the chance of mildew or other fungus growth since there is no place for the spores to grow.

It is important that this air movement be rather gentle. Blossoms and newly formed leaves can be damaged if moisture evaporates too rapidly. Strong air currents can also tear delicate plant tissues.

In order to provide consistent air movement across all of the violets throughout the growing area, it is wise to position a small fan to blow softly across each shelf of plants. One suggestion is to dangle strips of tissue or thin plastic at the opposite end of the shelf and adjust the air speed of a fan so that the strips gently move. The air speed can be adjusted in two ways: 1) with a dimmer switch or 2) by placing strips of masking tape on the backside of the fan. Neither method will damage the fan or affect its lifespan, and slowing the air speed will actually reduce energy consumption.

**How Many Fans???**

The number of fans needed will be determined by the number of violets. A ceiling fan or oscillating fan that keeps air moving in every open space will generally keep air at an even temperature and humidity level. A small fan on each shelf will help in the less open spaces to move pockets of air and to dry leaf and blossom surfaces. The presence of 'dead' air is a good indication that another fan is needed.

Fans are an excellent investment! They will help maximize plant growth and reduce disease. Fans keep growers comfortable and block the noise of any family, pet, or caller that would wish to interrupt those delightful hours spent with violets. Analyze your air movement... do you need another fan?

# Algae

by Nancy Manozzi

Algae is one of the simplest organisms among plants. African violet growers may recognize it as a green slime noticeable on clay pots or floating in the water of self-watering containers. In most cases, algae is more unsightly than it is harmful. However, in certain types of watering devices, algae can inhibit the absorption of water into the soil. And, Dr. Jeff Smith has found that algae on the soil can be a problem with seedlings. Anytime he got an algae mat growing on the germinating bed or on the soil of a young seedling, the seeds or seedling didn't germinate well.

If you find algae growing on the side of your pot, use warm water to wipe the pot clean and increase the amount of air circulation between your plants. A glazed or plastic pot is best since they will cut off the water supply that otherwise soaks through an unglazed pot.

If you find algae growing in the self-watering device, empty the water, clean the container, refill with fresh water and replace the wick with a new one. If you're using capillary matting as a wicking method, run the matting under warm, soapy water, being sure to rinse ALL the algae off the material. Dr. Ralph Robinson (Rob) has learned to use dark colored, acrylic blankets since algae is less likely to grow on dark surfaces.

To prevent the growth of algae in your self-watering containers, the safest method is to simply cut off its supply of light. The type of algae that grows in these containers needs a lot of sunlight. By shading the area around the device (though not the plant), you will cut off the supply of light that algae needs to thrive. This can be accomplished by using opaque or colored pots.

And, a last good preventive measure is Physan 20, a relatively safe algaecide. Add 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon to every gallon of water used to water your African violets. Physan 20 may also be used to keep your capillary mats from turning green.

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS

**Elmer Godeny**
7004 Government Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
*email:* ekgprof@cox.net

# It's All In The Mix

In the wild, African violets grow on rock ledges and in fertile loom on the floor of rain forests. Although they require nutrients, African violets have shallow roots and do not require a lot of soil. Growers of this plant need to supply a potting mix which mimics the growing conditions in the wild.

Although many hobbyists and growers refer to African violet potting mixes as "soil", in fact, they are "soil-less mixes". Soil-less mixes do not contain dirt or natural soil. Natural soil in potting mixes tends to compact easily, has poor aeration properties for the delicate fibrous roots of African violets, and can contain unwanted pests. Soil-less mixes contain organic and inorganic compounds and eliminate the detrimental effects of natural soil on African violet plants.

The number one killer of African violets in the home is drowning. The cause of drowning is the retention of water in the root ball. The increase in water surrounding the roots causes them to transport too much water to the leaves of the plant, causing them to wilt and rot. The roots will also begin to turn to mush and rot. African violet mixes must be light enough to reduce the amount of water trapped around the roots.

A lot of African violet growers and hobbyists purchase commercially available African violet soil-less mixes. These can prove satisfactory if proper adjustments are made to the mixes. In the humid South, where I live, most commercially available mixes are too dense and need to be mixed with perlite to lighten them, thus reducing the water retention in the mix and providing more aeration to the plant roots.

Like me, many African violet growers make up their own soil-less mixes which is not difficult. This can take some muscle (depending on how much mix you make at one time), and requires some space for storage of the materials. If you have enough space, it can be more economical to make your own soil-less mix, and you have the added advantage of knowing exactly what is in your mix.

The most popular soil-less mix recipe is the "Pittman African Violet Soil-Less Mix". I received this recipe a few years ago from Hortense Pittman, the creator of this recipe. The ingredients are as follows:

5 gallons Canadian Peat Moss
5 gallons coarse Vermiculite
5 gallons coarse Perlite
1 cup crushed Horticulture Charcoal
1 teaspoon Trace Elements
1 cup Dolomite Lime
5 quarts Water

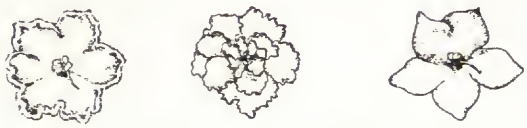
To make up the soil-less mix, combine the peat moss, vermiculite, perlite and charcoal into an appropriately sized container (I use a large outdoor garbage bag). Add the trace elements and dolomite lime to the water and add to the dry ingredients. Mix all the components together until well blended (closing the garbage bag and tossing it around in my arms does this well). Test the pH; it should be between 6.5 and 7 for best results. (I do not usually test the pH as it has always been in this range and I find that the fertilizer solution affects pH more than the soil mix.) It is a good idea to pasteurize the mix before using. Many growers do not pasteurize the mix

because each component in the mix is clean and should be free of pests. I usually pasteurize my mix by pouring the mix into aluminum roasting pans, covering with foil, and baking at 225 degrees for 1 1/2 hours. Another, more convenient way to pasteurize the mix, is to seal the bag in which the mix is made and place it in the sun for about 8 hours; this is especially useful in the hot summer months in the South. Caution must be taken when pasteurizing the mix. Do not heat for too long because you do not want to "sterilize" the mix: destroying some of the organic and inorganic compounds in the mix and killing off beneficial as well as the detrimental organisms.

By knowing what each component does for the mix, you can alter the amount of individual components to suit your individual growing environment. Peat Moss is a nutrient-deficient, organic, acidic, organic material. It has water and nutrient retention properties and resists compaction. Vermiculite is used because of its water and nutrient holding capacity. Its pH is generally neutral at 7.0, and it can act as a buffering agent to slow pH changes in the mix. Vermiculite contains small amounts of aluminum, magnesium, and silica with trace amounts of calcium and potassium. Perlite lightens the soil-less mix and provides aeration to the plant roots. It has a neutral pH and is chemically inert with only trace amounts of fluoride present. Charcoal "sweetens" the potting mix. Charcoal takes up organic by-products in the mix which are released from decomposing matter. Trace elements are chemicals and components needed by plants in small amounts for good growth. These include compounds such as boron, magnesium, sulfur, iron, molybdenum, zinc and others. Dolomite lime has a basic pH and corrects the acidic nature of the peat moss. It also contains some calcium carbonate and magnesium carbonate.

Most people I know that make their own potting mix start with the Pittman Mix and make some alterations. As shown above, the Pittman mix utilizes equal parts of peat moss, vermiculite, and perlite. Growing in the humid South, I alter the recipe to include 5 parts peat moss, 4 parts vermiculite, and 6 parts perlite. This decreases the water retention properties of the mix and increases its aerating ability. Growers that live in dryer parts of the country may want to decrease the perlite and increase the vermiculite, resulting in increased water retention properties. Further, trace elements must be used in all mixes in limited quantities as they can often be found in local water supplies, some of the soil-less mix ingredients, and many fertilizers. Too much of the trace elements can be harmful to African violets.

African violet potting mixes have four uses: (1) providing support for the plant in the pot; (2) providing nutrients to the root system; (3) retaining water for uptake by the plant roots and (4) allowing aeration of the roots. These latter two properties are most important for growing African violets as too much water retention and too little root aeration can result in drowning of the plant. By knowing the components of the soil-less mix and each components' purpose, the African violet hobbyist can alter the proportion of each component to maximize the mix for the individual's growing environment.



## THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
## STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS – MODIFIED CASH BASIS
12/31/03

**ASSETS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **CURRENT ASSETS:** | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 30,995 |
| Investments | 106,843 |
| Miscellaneous receivables | – |
| Inventory | 14,896 |
| Prepaid expenses | 11,256 |
| **Total current assets** | 163,990 |
| **PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, net of accumulated depreciation of $121,748** | 79,058 |
| **OTHER ASSETS:** | |
| Reorganization costs net of accumulated amortization of $4,880 | – |
| **PERMANENT RESTRICTED ASSETS:** | |
| Investments | 32,500 |
| **Total assets** | $275,548 |

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **CURRENT LIABILITIES:** | |
| Payroll and sales tax liabilities | $ 2,027 |
| Deferred advertising income | 3,073 |
| Deferred membership fees | $106,000 |
| Deferred life memberships | 114,060 |
| Deferred income, future conventions | 3,625 |
| Deferred revenue - other | 5,471 |
| **Total current liabilities** | 234,256 |
| **NEW ASSETS:** | |
| Unrestricted: | |
| Operating | -106,834 |
| Board designated - Convention | 5,475 |
| Board designated - Boyce Edens | 29,568 |
| Board designated - Hudson Awards | 1,525 |
| Property and Equipment | 79,058 |
| **Total unrestricted net assets** | 8,792 |
| Permanently restricted | 32,500 |
| **Total net assets** | 41,292 |
| **Total liabilities and net assets** | $275,548 |

# A Family Portrait

**Georgene Albrecht**
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071
*email:* georgena@verizon.net

***Sinningia* 'Poupee'**

***Saintpaulia* 'Willowdene'**

There are two gesneriads because I did the *Saintpaulia* and then could find no reference to it. So, I did the *Sinningia* as a feature, too. The *S.* 'Willowdene' is probably a vintage violet, and I seem to remember someone named Lineberg from a southern state hybridizing this most unusual combination of pale pink bloom with splotched variegation.

The *Sinningia* 'Poupee' (sin-NIN-jee-ah) is probably one of the oldest tubers in my collection. It was listed as a Nixon hybrid. The charming, small plant with large lavender flowers thrives in a terrarium atmosphere. This is why it has survived low these many years.

Always use a "lean" mix to grow the little ones. That means not very much fertilizer and lots of whole sphagnum moss cuddling the tuber in a thin layer of soilless mix. Never use the professional mixes that have long-term fertilizer and water absorbing polymers in the mix. They are sure death to the small tubers. That is just too rich and moist. I am very impressed by a *Sinningia* named 'Jitterbug'. The huge red-violet blooms on a dark, red-reversed foliage is striking. I could not find a listing or hybridizer. If anyone knows about this lovely plant, please tell us.

### VARIEGATED FOLIAGE

Bob Lubinsky recently gave us some tips on growing great variegation. He never disturbs the root ball when he repots them. He makes a mold with the old pot so he can just shift in the whole root system and not cause any harm to the original roots. He says that this is one way of avoiding that browning of white variegation in the leaves. I agree with him. Also, using room temperature water every time is very important. They resent hot or cold water on the root systems, too. Remember, if you have all-white babies coming up from the propagation leaf, you must give it some fish emulsion or seaweed concentrate to green it up before separating the plantlets. They need at least 50% green in them before you can expect them to support themselves.

He grows Pat Hancock's beautiful plants to perfection. By the way, if you have not grown some of these beauties, they

are a must-have. She is giving special awards at the convention in Cincinnati, also. What a convention that is going to be! Send for her catalog to: Pat Hancock, 71332 Shurz Rd., Middletown, OH 45042 for a fee of $3.00 in the USA and $3.50 in Canada. She has other hybrids, too. I can't wait for this convention. It is going to be extra special in many ways. I have attended other plant society conventions in the facility, and the ball room is wonderful. It's kind of Old English. I forgot to mention that Pat's hybrids can also be seen on the AVSA website, and, she is an advertiser in AVM. Her ad says that she has new reds and blues on variegated foliage for 2005. Yum.

**QUEEN SIZE**

There is an interesting idea floating around regarding the judging of Best in Show. Wouldn't it be nice to have a standard size AND miniature size Best in Show? Plants are judged on perfection and so it is much easier to find a small miniature violet to be perfect than a 20-inch wide standard African violet that took twice as long to grow and has five times the amount of leaves. I think this a fabulous idea and very fair indeed. It really would not be a difficult thing to instigate, just a schedule change and another ribbon.

# Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

**Donations received from April 1, 2004 – May 31, 2004**

Anne F. Tinari, Huntingdon Valley, PA ..... $25.00
*In loving memory of Mrs. Hattie Campoli Foster – a life-long friend and classmate of Anne Tinari*
AVSA Shows and Judges Committee, ..... 111.00
AVSA Teachers, AVSA Judges Mary Boland, Bill Foster, Winston Goretsky, Meredith Hall, Nancy Hayes, Jackie Jones, Paul Kroll, Ruth Loomis, Linda Owens, Sue Ramser, Jack Wilson
*In memory of Emily Savage and Mildred Schroeder*
Janey Reddell, Schertz, TX ..... 10.00
*In memory of my dear friend Alma A. Hummer*
Bergen County, AVS, Bergen County, NJ ..... 10.00
*In lieu of traveling expenses for Marianne Gershon and Elizabeth Branson*
Park Place AVS, Houston, TX ..... 200.00
*A thank you to the Park Place Lutheran Church for the use of the church facilities for our Society meetings.*
Mae Dodson, Baltimore, MD ..... 5.00
Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs, Juda, WI ..... 25.00
Carol Hastings, King of Prussia, PA ..... $5.00
Joan K. Wilson, Theresa, WI ..... 10.00
Lynn Wallach, Westport, CT ..... 10.00
Joanne M. Iannotti, Amsterdam, NY ..... 5.00
Patricia Minors, Bowling Green, KY ..... 10.00
Carol Allegretti, Fort Myers, FL ..... 25.00
Luanne Arico, Plainsboro, NJ ..... 5.00
Susan E. Joy, Columbus, OH ..... 5.00
Stephanie Jeffery, Germantown, MD ..... 10.00
Corona Heidel, Independence, MO ..... 25.00
Charles R. Hart, Auburn, NY ..... 5.00
Anya Fillion, Acton, MA ..... 5.00
Anita McCreary, Orange Park, FL ..... 5.00
Arlene Garvens, Elroy, WI ..... 10.00
Doris R. Acree, McKenzie, TN ..... 5.00
Donna Freeman, Nassau, NY ..... 25.00
South Coast AVS, Torrance, CA ..... 25.00
*In memory of Fran Thorpe*
South Coast AVS, Torrance, CA ..... 25.00
*In memory of Joe Kosowsky*
Garden State AV Club Mercerville, NJ ..... 5.00
AVS of Staten Island, Staten Island, NY ..... $20.00
*In memory of Leila Eginites in lieu of a speaker's fee to Joe Palagonia*
Milwaukee AVS, Milwaukee, WI ..... 10.00
Betty Hoff, Lincoln, NE ..... 30.00
Jeanne Church, Jerusalem, AR ..... 5.00
Marge Farrand, Ann Arbor, MI ..... 10.00
Vivian Schwartz, Lake Worth, FL ..... 10.00
Barbara Church, Dumont, NJ ..... 10.00
Jean Milstead, Rensselaer, NY ..... 5.00
Annette N. Hershkowitz, Commack, NY ..... 3.00
TriState AV Council, Lafayette, NJ ..... 10.00
Debra C. Black, Lake Helen, FL ..... 5.00
Jewel Schwartz, Spirit Lake, IA ..... 10.00
Allen Foust, Orange, NJ ..... 5.00
Frances C. Forbes, Stockbridge, GA ..... 10.00
Geneva Mayo, Pulaski, TN ..... 5.00
Barbara & Charles Werness, Coon Rapids, MN .. 15.00
Elizabeth Dotson, Kissimmee, FL ..... 5.00
Danville AVS, Danville, VA ..... 5.00

# AVSA Booster Fund

Shirley Berger • 4343 Schumacher Rd-196E • Sebring, FL 33872

**CONTRIBUTIONS:** April 1, 2004 – May 31, 2004

Central Jersey AVS, Milltown, NJ ..... $15.00
Terry Klemesrud, Champlin, MN ..... 10.00
Anna Chou, San Francisco, CA ..... 1.00
Cecelia Seidel, Hayward, CA ..... 5.00
Lynn Milgrom, Richmond, VA ..... 10.00
Peggy Eaton, Brighton, MA ..... 25.00
Nelly Levine, Arvada, CO ..... 10.00
Kathleen M. Stottle, Pittsfield, MA ..... 5.00
Michelle Waxler, Moncks Corner, SC ..... 1.00
Carol Irvine, Aurora, IL ..... 10.00
Frances Carson, Spring Hill, FL ..... 5.00
Mae Dodson, Baltimore, MD ..... 5.00
Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs, Juda, WI ..... 25.00
Elizabeth Tan, Princeton, NJ ..... 10.00
Carol Hastings, King of Prussia, PA ..... 5.00
Joan K. Wilson, Theresa, WI ..... 10.00
Carol Allegretti, Fort Myers, FL ..... 25.00
Luanne Arico, Plainsboro, NJ ..... 5.00
Stephanie Jeffery, Germantown, MD ..... 10.00
Janet Riemer, Pennington, NJ ..... 25.00
*In memory of Colin Halford and Emilie Savage*
Carole Domnitz, Bellmore, NY ..... 5.00
Union County Chapter AVS, Pennington, NJ ... $10.00
*In lieu of judging expenses for Heather Menzel and Jan Murasko*
AV Club of Morris County, Lafayette, NJ ..... 5.00
*In lieu of judging expenses for Janet Riemer*
Potomac Council of AV Judges, Annandale, VA .. 491.87
*Club has disbanded*
Jennifer Dang, Naperville, IL ..... 15.00
Janey E. Reddell, Schertz, TX ..... 10.00
*In memory of dear friend Alma A. Hummer*
Corona Heidel, Independence, MO ..... 25.00
Anya Fillion, Acton, MA ..... 5.00
Anita McCreary, Orange Park, FL ..... 5.00
AVS of East Tennessee, Oak Ridge, TN ..... 207.43
*Club has disbanded*
Doris R. Acree, McKenzie, TN ..... 5.00
Donna Freeman, Nassau, NY ..... 25.00
Andrea Worrell, Downers Grove, IL ..... 25.00
Milwaukee AVS, Milwaukee, WI ..... 10.00
Itsuko Ishimoto, Honolulu, Hi ..... 25.00
Donna Mosher, Grove City, OH ..... 20.00
Vivian Schwartz, Lake Worth, FL ..... 10.00
Jeanne Church, Jerusalem, AR ..... $5.00
Marita H. Duryea, Buffalo, NY ..... 5.00
Marge Farrand, Ann Arbor, MI ..... 5.00
Barbara Church, Dumont, NJ ..... 10.00
John L. Patterson, Hagerstown, MD ..... 5.00
Annette N. Hershkowitz ..... 3.00
Ottilie Hajek, Prescott, AZ ..... 10.00
TriState AV Council, Lafayette, NJ ..... 10.00
Janice Murray, New York, NY ..... 25.00
Millie Reavis, Apple Valley, CA ..... 5.00
Garden State AVS Club, Allentown, NJ ..... 5.00
*In lieu of fee for Robert Kurcynski*
Kay Lyons, Levittown, PA ..... 100.00
*In memory of Bill Lyons*
AV Club of Greater Atlanta, Atlanta, GA ..... 25.00
*In memory of Raymond Hinkle, father of Club President Phillis Hinkle*
David A. Lass, Nahant, MA ..... 25.00
*In memory of good friend Alice Courage*

**TOTAL ..... $1,354.30**

# Registration Report

**Janice Bruns**
1220 Stratford Lane
Hanover Park, IL 60133
*email:* janice@qwip.net

A name reservation costs $1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional $1.00. Registration of the plant is $5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then $4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

*****

**Francine Pilon – Gatineau, Quebec, Canada**

*__Azali__ (9329) 4/9/04 (F. Pilon) Single-semidouble white pansy/pink blush. **Variegated** medium green, cream and pink, serrated/red back. **Standard trailer**

*__Haki__ (9330) 4/9/04 (F. Pilon) Double lavender two-tone pansy/ burgundy eye, variable darker tips. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

*__Sema__ (9331) 4/9/04 (F. Pilon) Single amethyst sticktite star/ white edge. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, pointed, serrated/red back. **Standard trailer**

*__Shina__ (9332) 4/9/04 (F. Pilon) Double pink pansy/white edge. **Variegated** medium-dark green, cream and pink, hairy, serrated/red back. **Standard trailer**

*__Wiko__ (9333) 4/9/04 (F. Pilon) Double lavender and purple pansy/darker top petals, white edge. **Variegated** medium-dark green, cream and pink, quilted, hairy, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**

*****

**Pat Hancock – Middletown, OH**

*__Buckeye Encore__ (9334) 5/4/04 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double lavender-pink ruffled pansy/red-purple fantasy, edge. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, plain/red back. **Large**

*__Buckeye Everlasting__ (9335) 5/4/04 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double pink pansy. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, scalloped/ red back. **Large**

*__Buckeye Happiness Is__ (9336) 5/4/04 (P. Hancock) Single-semidouble bright pink star/variable coral overlay; ruffled white edge. **Variegated** medium green, cream and pink, plain/red back. **Large**

*__Buckeye Innocence__ (9337) 5/4/04 (P. Hancock) Single-semidouble white pansy/pale pink eye, edge. **Variegated** medium green and cream, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Large**

*__Buckeye Love's Caress__ (9338) 5/4/04 (P. Hancock) Single-semidouble lavender frilled pansy/dark purple fantasy, edge. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, pointed, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**

*__Buckeye Masterpiece__ (9339) 5/4/04 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double rose-wine two-tone ruffled pansy/ darker top petals. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, pointed, quilted, serrated/red back. **Large**

*__Buckeye Nocturne__ (9340) 5/4/04 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double pink frilled pansy/rose overlay. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, pointed/red back. **Large**

*__Buckeye Obsession__ (9341) 5/4/04 (P. Hancock) Single-semidouble dark purple star/white and pink fantasy. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, plain, glossy/red back. **Standard**

*__Buckeye Ohio Friendship__ (9342) 5/4/04 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double pink ruffled star. **Variegated** dark green and pink, plain, glossy/red back. **Standard**

*__Buckeye Remember Ohio__ (9343) 5/4/04 (P. Hancock) Single-semidouble red pansy. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, plain, glossy/red back. **Large**

*__Buckeye Rockin' Robin__ (9344) 5/4/04 (P. Hancock) Single-semidouble red ruffled star. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, plain, quilted, serrated/red back. **Large**

*__Buckeye Ruby Tuesday__ (9345) 5/4/04 (P. Hancock) Single-semidouble red pansy. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, quilted/red back. **Large**

*__Buckeye Spring Fling__ (9346) 5/4/04 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double lavender ruffled pansy/variable white

and purple fantasy, variable green edge. **Variegated** medium green and cream, pointed, glossy. **Standard**

*__Buckeye Boysenberry__ (9347) 5/12/04 (P. Hancock) Single-semidouble purple large star. **Variegated** dark green and cream, plain, glossy. **Large**

*__Buckeye Midnight Kiss__ (9348) 5/12/04 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double plum-red frilled pansy/darker-edged top petals. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, plain, glossy/red back. **Large**

*****

**Lorna Russell – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada**

*__Lorus' Springtime__ (9349) 5/13/04 (L. Russell) Single chimera pink pansy/dark blue stripe, fantasy. **Variegated** dark green, cream and white, serrated/red back. **Standard**

**NAME RESERVATIONS**

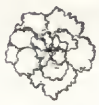
**Francine Pilon – Gatineau, Quebec, Canada**

*Tattoo*

**REGISTRATION CHANGE**

The following blossom description has been changed at the request of the hybridizer:

**Dolores' Sugar Candy** (9303) Single-semidouble dark pink pansy/green edge. (Delete purple eye.)



# Design Tips

by Vickie Crider and Laurie Kaye Coleman
Spring Branch AVS, Houston TX

**When preparing to do your first designs for a show, keep these hints in mind:**

1. Read the Schedule - Pay attention to measurements and any specific instructions in the category you are trying. This is the "law" of the show.
2. Ask questions -hold a round table discussion with your club members or put them all on speed dial. Remember the old saying, "There is no such thing as a dumb question."
3. Measure - This is important whether doing a small design or a dish garden. Meet the requirements specified in the schedule for your category.
4. Use odd numbers - this is visually pleasing.
5. Repeat shapes, quantities, and colors - this keeps the number of colors to a minimum and is overall pleasing in design.
6. Cover all mechanics with mosses, blossoms, etc. If the judges are able to see the mechanics, points will be deducted.
7. Listen to you instincts. Our instincts have changed a red ribbon design into a Best in Class.
8. Share your materials, blossoms, and tools with other participants. Your need for blossoms this year can be paid back with a hot glue gun next year.
9. After the judges have completed judging, ask the judges how you could improve your designs. They are generally glad to assist.

**Tricks of the trade:**

1. Cutlery containers - whether from your dishwasher or a summer patio set, a cutlery container is a great way to transport or store containers for small designs (including mirror images).
2. Handi-wipes container or a small craft container with a wet piece of "Oasis" foam is perfect for transporting blossoms and other live plant material.
3. An expandable file folder is handy for storing background materials, particularly small design backgrounds.
4. Background materials for small designs can come from matt boards, fabric remnants, and scrap booking sheets.
5. Carry a bottle of fabric wrinkle remover for the fold lines in your fabric backgrounds.
6. Assemble underwater arrangements outside the container. Some people find assembling within the container very frustrating.
7. Use white florist "stickum" available from discount stores. It is easier to disguise in an underwater design over the green "stickum".
8. Eyedropper - we have picked up a plastic eyedropper from the beauty supply stores, which we use to fill all the small reservoirs in small designs and natural gardens.
9. Use a plastic dry cleaner bag on dish or natural gardens to preserve moisture.

We have culled these ideas from our established members as well as our own experiences with our design adventures. We still have designs to try, and we are always interested in trying the same design in a new way to keep it interesting to the viewer and us.

# "And the winners are ..."

**Mary J. Corondan**
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

**AVC OF BURLINGTON COUNTY, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Granger's Wonderland, Tiger; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boo Man, Party Lace, Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best in Show/Best Standard: Granger's Wonderland; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best Trailer: Foxwood Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'Kazu', **Sandy Skalski.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, Optimara Alaska, Maas' Janet; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Texas Teen, Texas Gold, Rob's Mister Sneezy; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Susan Arnao.** Best Design, **Dot Taylor.**

**AVC OF MORRIS COUNTY, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rebel's Rose Bud, Optimara EverPraise, Ness' Candy Pink; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sno Fun, Ness' Mini Sota, Cool Blue; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Fantasy Pixie; Best Standard: Spring Rose; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Blue; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bob Kurzynski.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Lyon's June Bug, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Design, **Jill Fischer.** Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Manchu', **Judy Padalino.** Design Sweepstakes, **Emillia Rykowski.**

**AVS OF DAYTON, OH – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Powder Keg, Harbor Blue, Pink Summit; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Spring Peach, Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Frosted Denim; Best Miniature: Midget Lilian; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, **Chris Leppard.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Scooter, Shy Blue, Ness' Satin Rose; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Scooter; Best Trailer: Rob's Humpty Doo, **Cathy Kennedy.** Best Standard: Smooch Me, **Bob Dilgard.** Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Tropicana', **Margaret Newill.** Best Design, **Lynn Walden.**

**AVS OF MINNESOTA, MN – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Rebel's Blaze Spinner, Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Rob's Cool Fruit, Snuggles, **Ken Rein.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rebel's Stormy Sky, Rebel's Rose Bud, Rosie Ruffles; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Bamboozle, Rob's Cool Fruit, Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best Miniature: Dolores' Sugar Candy; Best Species: *Saintpaulia tongwensis*, **Terry Klemesrud.** Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara California II, **Kathy Lahti.** Best Semiminiature: Little Pro, **Kim Chisholm.** Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo, **Ruth Bann.** Best Gesneriad: *Chirita linearifolia*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Jude Neumann.** Best Design, **Elaine Minwegen.**

**AVS OF SPRINGFIELD, DELAWARE COUNTY, PA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia tongwensis, Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #0, *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best in Show/Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #0; Best Standard: Powwow; Best Semiminiature: Pretty Me; Best Trailer: Deer Path; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita tamiana*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Jones.**

**AVS OF SYRACUSE, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Sugar Plum Dream, Wild Irish Rose, Victorian Parasol; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Definitely Darryl, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Little Katherine; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Stardust, **Mary Ryan.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Jitterbug, Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Timid Teen; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Donna Coleman.** Best Standard: Opera's Paulo, **Bill and Robin Yager.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #0; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Linda Rowe.** Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Tiger Stripe', **Penny Moore.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Ellison.**

**ALBUQUERQUE AVC, NM – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Halo's Aglitter, Picasso, Apache Redcoats; Best Semiminiature: Aunt Irene; Best Miniature: Silly Girl; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina* lite; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Texas Hot Chili', **Louisa Sando.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Optimara Barbados, Powwow; Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Barbados; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jo Ellen Bowden.** Best Design, **Cal Iskra.** Design Sweepstakes, **Joy Tallant.**

**BAY STATE AVS, RI – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frozen in Time, Red Ferrari, Ness' Snow Clouds; Best in Show/Best Standard: B-Man's Etna, **Susan Gimblet.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea, Saintpaulia grandifolia #237, Saintpaulia grandifolia #299*; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia #237*, **Cheryl Salatino.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pewter Bells, Rob's Antique Rose, Snuggles, **Marie Montaque.** Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose, **Zelda Owens.** Best Miniature: Petite Blarney, **Carol Ness.** Best Trailer: Ramblin' Lassie; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Nancy Manozzi.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Hey Mei', **Terry Studer.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Suzanne Ress.**

**BERGEN COUNTY AVS, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Tradition, Silent Prayer, Buckeye Cherry Pink; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Wind Chimes, Snuggles Snow Baby, Shy Blue; Best in Show/Best Standard: Orchid Mist; Best Semiminiature: Shy Blue, **Barbara Church.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Pink Blueberry, Optimara New Orleans; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Deborah Powell.** Best Trailer: Ramblin' Magic, **Florence Friedman.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Lee Borey.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Sweet Dreams'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Betty Curry.**

**CAPITAL DISTRICT AVS, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Mississippi, Frozen in Time, The Alps; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's April Storm, Rob's Sarsparilla; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: George's Purple Thumb; Best Standard: Frozen in Time; Best Miniature: Midget Silver Fox; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Light Prince'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Margaret Califano.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Esther Mason.** Best Design, **Andrea Freeman.** Design Sweepstakes, **Kathy Schnurr.**

**CARLSBAD AVS, CA – Winners:** Best in Show/Best Standard: Spring Romance; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Best Trailer: Falling Raindrops; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Barbara Conrad.** Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose, **June Doran.** Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako'; Best Design, **Lucinda Guymon.** Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Forbess.**

**CENTRAL JERSEY AVS, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wild Irish Rose, Lela Marie, Picasso; Best Standard: Wild Irish Rose, **Dave Tooker.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Nancy Leigh, Huron, Lela Marie, **Annamarie Beardsley.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Sunspot; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Jee Jim; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Trailer: Chantaspring; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia #237*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ron Ennis.** Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Golden West', **Eleanor Mattalinao.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Murasko.**

**DELAWARE AVS, DE – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara California, Optimara Trinidad, Rhapsodie Pamela; Best in Show/Best Standard: Tommie Lou; Best Semiminiature: Snuggles, **Barbara LaFashia.** Best Miniature: Barb's Pink Girl, **Barbara Borleske.** Best Trailer: Fairy Fountains, **Ron Bannister.** Best Gesneriad: *Chirita USBRG 98-083*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Libby Behnke.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Carol Callaghan.**

**DIXIE AVS, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ma's Soiree, Ma's Debutante, Tomahawk; Best in Show/Best Standard: Ma's Debutant, **John Nabers.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cool Blue, Tiptop, Red Bandito; Best Miniature: Pink Puff; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Hortense Pittman.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cool Teen, Red Bandito, Magic Blue; Best Semiminiature: Red Bandito, **Ray Pittman.** Best Trailer: Sandy Trail, **Martha Dyson.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'Diane Marie', **Joyce Stenger.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jane Rexilius.**

**EARLY BIRD VC, AL – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Georgia Lover, Tiger, Lyon's Pink Crystal; Best Semiminiature: Tiptop; Best Species: *Saintpaulia nitida*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sandra Campbell.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara EverLove, Optimara EverPraise, Fireball, **Anita Goodall.** Best in Show/Best Trailer: Ramblin' Show Stopper, **Nancy Romeo.** Best Standard: Optimara EverYoung, **Jerry Goodall.** Best Gesneriad: *Codonanthe paula*, **Gwen Johnson.** Best Design, **Donna Henderson.** Design Sweepstakes, **Michael Jackson and Donna Henderson (tie).**

**THE EVENING AVC OF DES MOINES, IA – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Mad Cat, Rob's Dust Storm, Winnergreen; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Winnergreen; Best Miniature: Rob's Jitterbug, **David Taylor.** Best Standard: Ness' Blueberry Puff; Best Trailer: Chantaspring; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Sweet Dreams'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Joan Watts.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Kenneth Wilkinson.**

**FANTASY AVC, FL – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Arapahoe, Phobos, Natchurly Nawlins; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Slap Happy, Pink Playmate, Rob's Dust Storm; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Semiminiature: Pink Playmate; Best Miniature: Rob's Jitterbug; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Party Girl', **Thad Scaggs.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Antique Rose, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Trailer: Sweet Amy Sue, **Francis Carson.**

**GARDEN STATE AVC, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Lucky Penny, Granger's Mexicali Rose, Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Mac's Red Riot; Best Miniature: Mac's Enchanted Eve; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **George McDonald.** Best Standard: Ness' Candy Pink, **Fred Hill.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia #299,* **Sheila Ando.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Janus', **Gail Gray.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara McDonald.**

**HEART OF MISSOURI AVS, MO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Muffy, Designer Dress, Cinnamon Candy, **Janet Jackson.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Moonbeam, Winnergreen, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Rob's Smarty Pants; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Peggy Payne.** Best Standard/Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha,* **Catherine Ross.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Party Girl'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Anderson.**

**LAKES AREA VIOLET GROWERS, MN – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Rebel's Blaze Spinner, Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Rebel's Gingham Elf, Snuggles, **Ken Rein.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Red Ferrari, Lucien Croteau, Rebel's Charmin' Pink; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Robert Aurandt.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Teen Thunder, Optimara Little Aztec, Rob's Whodunit; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Teen Thunder; Best Standard: Melodie Heather; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Summer-Lin'; Best Design, **Kathy Lahti.** Design Sweepstakes, **Jude Neumann.**

**LAKESHORE AVS, ONTARIO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara EverGrace, Paumanok, Skagit Rascal; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Whodunit, Orchard's Night Light, Rob's Gizmo; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rainbow's Quiet Riot; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Tony Hulleman.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: B-Man's Alessio, B-Man's Caltanisetta, B-Man's Corleone, **Bruno Curcuruto.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Red Flash, Rob's Whippoorwill, Rob's Snake Charmer; Best Species: *Saintpaulia shumensis*, **Daphne Yarmenko.** Best Semiminiature: Rob's Hand Puppet; Best Miniature: Tamsen, **Jim Toms.** Best Trailer: Beacon Trail, **Beverley Williams.** Best Gesneriad: *Chirita gemella*, **Sharon Kemp.** Best Design, **Russell Leg.** Design Sweepstakes, **Vivian Beeching.**

**LATE BLOOMERS AVC OF SOUTHERN WISCONSIN, WI – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Bed Bug, Rob's Dust Storm, Rob's Shadow Magic; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Bed Bug; Best Standard: Winter Ice; Best Miniature: Rob's Ice Ripples; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Mom's Plant'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Janice Judd.** 2nd Best Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Boo Man, Ness' Tutti Frutti, **Shirley Streit.** Best Design, **Mable Lewis.** Design Sweepstakes, **Carol Zimmerman.**

**LONG ISLAND AVS, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Cherry Pink, Mulberry Jazz, Lyon's Tropical Sunset; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Diane Lohan.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Simpler Times, Therese, Sunset Ridge; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Pewter Bells; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Species: *Saintpaulia tongwensis*. **Jeanne Maier.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sno Fun, Rob's Heat Wave, Persian Lace; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Babe, **Lois Szostak.** Best in Show/Best Standard: Red Lion, **Mickey Schnaufer.** Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea forrestii*, **Dorothy Vogt.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Rosemary Macaluso.**

**MEMPHIS AVS, TN – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mindi's Tears, Chicago Flair, The Alps; Best Species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Party Girl'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Geneva Stagg.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Cool Fruit, Irish Flirt, Rob's Miss Sniffles, **Ann Shirley.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hot Tamale, Dean's Bunny Blue, Little Pro; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Trailer: Foster Trail, **Katherine Steele.** Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Inner Orbit; Best Standard: Ruffled Romance, **Brenda Brasfield.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Faye Wiginton.**

**METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AV COUNCIL, MO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ma's Debutante, Mindi Morn, Vintage Wine, **Marion Hamtil.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Aca's Coral Beauty, Lemon Whip, Smooch Me, **Mary Ann Switzer.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Optimara Little Pueblo, Slow Dancin'; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Ruby; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Susan Hapner.** Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Romance; Best Semiminiature: Shy Blue, **Janet Graves.** Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo, **Nancy Amelung.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Mather #21; Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Light Prince', **Marcia Jacobs.** Best Design, **Fran Russom.** Design Sweepstakes: **Gary Dunlap, Pat Dunlap, and Fran Russom (tie).**

**MONCTONIAN AVS, NEW BRUNSWICK – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Freedom, Christine, Picasso; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Antique Rose, Von's Small Gift; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Semiminiature: Von's Small Gift; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sharon Bailey.** Best Miniature: Aca's Pink Pet, **Elaine Davison.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita linearifolia*, **Louise Hughes.** Best Design, **Myra Steeves.** Design Sweepstakes, **Eva Belliveau.**

**OAKVILLE AVS, ONTARIO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Monet, Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Aca's Red Ember; Best in Show: Optimara Monet; Best Semiminiature: Snuggles' Little Dreamer; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Eva Linstol.** Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Sharon Deuling.**

**OMAHA AVS, NE – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Especially Mine, Phobos, Powwow; Best in Show/Best Standard: Buckeye Especially Mine; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Ruby; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola* 'Cha Simba', **B.J. Ohme.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Smooch Me, Marching Band; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kent Stork.** Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea forrestii*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Joyce Stork.**

**OTTAWA AVS, ONT – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frozen in Time, Tapestry, Silver Brocade; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's

Whodunit, Rob's Little Pueblo, Rob's Gray Ghost; Best Species: *Saintpaulia magungensis*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Heather Eakins.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pewter Bells, Rob's Argyle Socks, Von's Mariner; Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Ottawa; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Lorna Russell.** Best in Show/Best Standard: Bob Serbin, **Sandy Black.** Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Pat Renaud.** Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Eileen McGrath.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Ivy Sayers.**

**QUAD CITIES AVS, IA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Chinook Wind, Ode to Beauty, Optimara Van Gogh; Best in Show/Best Standard: Ode to Beauty; Best Trailer: Linda Darnel, **Cel Schafer.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buffalo Hunt, Picasso, Optimara Paris, **Doris Johnson.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Bunny Blue, Lemon Cookie, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **LuAnn Christenson.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Twinkle Pink, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Dark Velvet', **Carol Boyd.** Design Sweepstakes, **Jackie Jones.**

**REDLANDS TOWN AND COUNTRY AVS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Sea Drift, Rapid Transit, Optimara Alabama II; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Shy Blue, Bashful; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gini McCanne.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Anne Beard.**

**RICHMOND AVS, VA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia velutina, Saintpaulia ionantha, Saintpaulia tongwensis*; Best in Show/Best Standard/ Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Design Sweepstakes, **Kitty Hedgepeth.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Moonbeams, Rebel's Corabella; Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail, **Bill Schmidt.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pink Puff, Ness' Satin Rose, Optimara Little Ottawa; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Texas Hot Chili'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Barbara Stewart.** Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie, **Nell Reese.** Best Miniature: Persian Prince, **Alice Grundy.** Best Design, **Sharon Long.**

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN AV COUNCIL, CO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Michigan, Ma's Silk Flower, Marshlands; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cutie, Optimara Little Diamond, Optimara Little Ruby; Best Standard: Stan's Legacy; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fran Ratte.** Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Blue, **Martha Olander.** Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia tongwensis*, **Nelly Levine.** Best Gesneriad: *Columnea microphylla,* **Barbara Lovins.** Best Design, **Shirley Mitchell.** Design Sweepstakes, **Colleen Clark.**

**THE SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Optimara Molokai, Optimara Michigan; Best Standard: Lela Marie, **Donna Palagonia.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Molokai, Rhapsodie Nancy, Lyon's Plum Pudding; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Ramblin' Spots; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita USBR 98-093*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Joseph Palabonia.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Irish Flirt, Heritage Frolic; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Design, **Carolyn Klein.** Best Miniature: Little Rose Claire, **Kathryn Rotando.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Design Sweepstakes, **Claire Schirtzer.**

**SHO ME AV CLUB, MO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Bangle Blue, Tropical Heat Wave, Optimara Sequoia; Best in Show/Best Standard: Ness' Bangle Blue; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Tricia Taylor.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tropical Heat Wave, Mark, Mindi Morn; Best Miniature: Tiny Blue; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Dona Stilwell.** Best Semiminiature: Winnergreen, **Shirley Farris.** Best Trailer: Rob's Galiwinku, **Juanita Mallory.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Richard Farris.** Best Gesneriad: *Columnea filipendula*, **Doris Brown.**

**SOCIETE SAINTPAULIA MONTREAL, QUEBEC – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Picasso, Wild Irish Rose; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuzzy Navel, Boo Man, Green Dragon; Best in Show/Best Standard: Wild Irish Rose; Best Semiminiature: Boo Man; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Annie Simard.** Best Miniature: Merrilee, **Francine Houde.** Best Trailer: Cherokee Trail, **Pierre LaForest.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola,* **Line Beaucage.** Best Gesneriad: *Chirita linearifolia,* **Monique Beaucage.** Best Design, **Marie-Andree Fafard.** Design Sweepstakes, **Annie Simard and Marie Belle Humeur (tie).**

**SOUTH COAST AVS AND TUSTANA AVS, CA – Winners:** Best in Show/Best Standard: Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia #237*; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Bright Eyes'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Leonard Re.** Best Miniature: Persian Prince; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jacquie Eisenhut.**

**SPRING BRANCH AVC, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rodeo Party, Snow Squall, Kiwi Dazzler; Best in Show/Best Standard: Silverglade Sprays, **Elaine Click.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Marching Band, Rhapsodie Clementine, Robert Mayer, **Billye Wheeler.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Rob's Hot Foot, Magic Blue; Best Semiminiature: Rocky Mountain Blue; Best Miniature: Rob's Penny Ante; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jane Rexilius.** Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo; Best Design, **Vickie Crider.** Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Popcorn', **Norma Flynn.** Design Sweepstakes, **Ruth Goeke.**

**STAMPEDE CITY AVS, ALBERTA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Aca's Red Ember, Aca's Pink Pansy, Marching Band; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Suomi', **Jean Melnechuk.** Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Design, **Margaret Gratto.** Best Standard: Meghan's Bay; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lynn Moore.** Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose, **Norma Kunzel.** Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Margaret Lowndes.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia intermedia,* **Maida den Oudsten.** Design Sweepstakes, **Judy Eddy.**

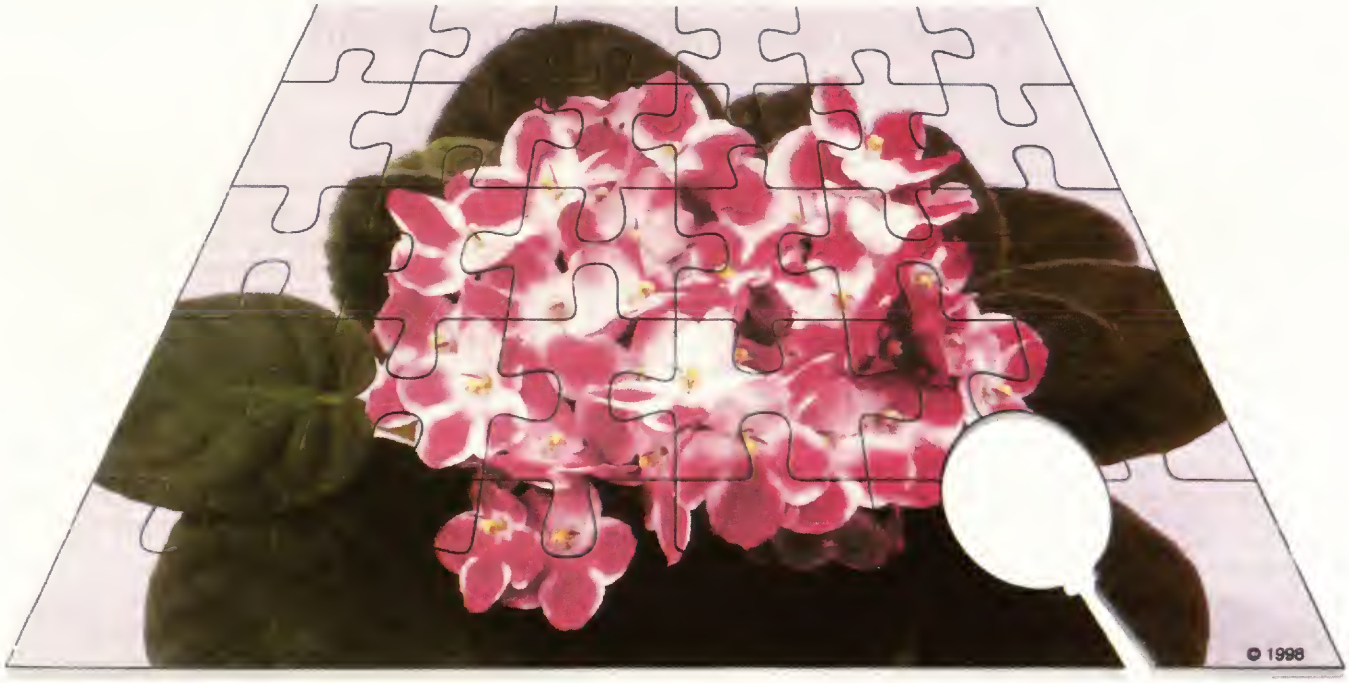
**SUNDOWNERS' AVS, LA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Louisiana Lagniappe, Vince's Choice, Rebel's Splatter Kake; Best in Show/Best Standard: Quiet Eyes, **George Ramirez.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Monet, Kiss Me Love, The Alps; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boolaroo, Rob's Gundaroo, Foster Trail; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea forrestii*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Martha Dyson.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hot Tamale, Cool Blue, California Sunset, **Lois Holmes.** Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush, **Donna McClelland.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Elmer Godeny.**

**THIMBLE ISLANDS AVS, CT – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Red Ferrari, Granger's Wonderland, Paradise Pink, **Nancy Gilson.** Best in Show/Best Standard: Aca's Red Ember; Best Trailer: Rob's Galiwinku; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Texas Hot Chili'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Nancy Gilson.** Best Semiminiature: Blue Jeans Baby, **Richard Bower.** Best Design, **Charlene Boyce.** Design Sweepstakes, **Charlene Boyce and Nancy Gilson (tie).**

**UNPREDICTABLES AVS, MO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Cora, The King, Ness' Bangle Blue; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rhapsodie Cora, **Wilma Wolverton.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Louisiana Lagniappe, Ness' Bangle Blue, Rebel's Ambrosia, **Frederick Inbody.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Heat Wave, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Optimara Little Hopi; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Heat Wave; Best Miniature: Everdina; Best Trailer: Linda Darnell, **Pat Inbody.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha,* **Richard Faris.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'The King', **Dora Parla.** Best Design, **Linda Golubski.** Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sue Hill.** Design Sweepstakes, **Deanna Loeffler.**

**UPPER MIAMI VALLEY AVS, OH – Winners:** Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Dali; Design Sweepstakes, **Terena Stotler.** Best Semiminiature: Blue Jeans Baby; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Tinkerbells'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Shirley Jones.** Best Miniature: Rob's Ice Ripples, **Alta Kay Holmes.**

**WINDSOR AVS, CT – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bud's Melanie, Salmon Ella, Lyon's Northern Star, **Joyce Dickey.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Optimara Molokai, Windy Day; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Trailer: Mountain Mist Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Just Blue'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Charlotte Howson.** Best in Show/Best Standard: Irish Maiden; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, Best Design, **Cindy Fagan.** Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Babe, **Nancy Hayes.** Design Sweepstakes, **Marcia Kilpatrick.**




# What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

### Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

### From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

### A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (http://www.selectivegardener.com), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

(**Tip:** If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

### The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send $1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at
http://www.selectivegardener.com.

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# AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Mary Walbrick • 5235 Kingston Drive • Wichita Falls, Texas 76310-3029
*email:* MWalbrick@aol.com

**Donations Received**

**Report 5, May 2004**

AVC of Morris County, Lafayette, NJ ..... $25.00
*In lieu of Judging Expenses: Joe DeSimon, Jan Murasko, Laurel Brown, Fred Hill, & David Tooker*
AVSA Shows & Judges Committee, Teachers, and Judges, Wichita Falls, TX ..... 111.00
*In memory of Emilie Savage and Mildred Schroeder*
Bergen County AV Council, Hasbrouck Hts, NJ... 25.00
*In lieu of Judging Expenses: Fred Hill, Dave Tooker, Bob Kurzynski, and Leonore Gugliada*
Milwaukee AVS, Cadahy, WI ..... 10.00
TriState AV Council, Lafayette, NJ ..... 25.00
*In memory of Vincent Gross*
TriState AV Council, Lafayette, NJ ..... 10.00
Union County Chapter AVS, Pennington, NJ .... 15.00
*In lieu of Judging Expenses: Fred Hill, Bob Kurzynski, & David Tooker*
Doris R. Acree, McKenzie, TN..... 5.00
Roy H. Charles, Straburg, PA ..... 5.00
Barbara Church, Dumont, NJ ..... 10.00
Jeanne Church, Jerusalem, AR ..... 5.00
Dorothy Dillon, Hartville, SC..... 2.50
Marge Farrand, Ann Arbor, MI..... 10.00
Anya Fillion, Acton, MA ..... $5.00
Donna Freeman, Nassau, NY ..... 25.00
Joan Halford, Watrkloof Ridge, South Africa ..... 2.00
Corona Heidel, Independence, MO ..... 25.00
Annette N. Hershkowitz, Commack, NY ..... 3.00
Norma Kunzel, Calgary, AB, Canada..... 5.00
Chester Landis, Ottawa Lake, MI ..... 15.00
Anita McCreary, Orange Park, FL ..... 5.00
Marlys M. Moak, Chico, CA ..... 10.00
John L. Patterson, Hagerstown, MD ..... 6.00
Millie Reavis, Apple Valley, CA..... 5.00
Janey Reddell, Schertz, TX ..... 10.00
*In memory of dear friend, Alma Hummer*
Joan Santino, Boothwyn, PA ..... 10.00

**TOTAL ..... $384.50**

**Report 6, June 2004**

Central Jersey AVS, Milltown, NJ..... $25.00
*In lieu of speaker's fee: Janet Riemer*
Danville AVS, Danville, VA..... 4.00
First AVS of Spartanburg,Woodruff, SC ..... 10.00
Garden Club of Marlton, Marlton, NJ..... $50.00
*In lieu of speaker's fee: Fred Hill*
Garden State AV Club..... 5.00
*In lieu of judging expenses: Laura Brown*
Richmond AVS, Richmond, VA..... 20.00
*In lieu of judging expenses: Mary Boland*
Richmond AVS, Richmond, VA..... 50.00
Royal Garden Club by the Bay, Perth Amboy, NJ ..... 100.00
*In lieu of speaker's fee: Fred Hill*
Barbara Ann Charles, Coon Rapids, MN ..... 15.00
Thomas O. Connell, Catonsville, MD..... 5.00
Elizabeth Dotson, Kissimmee, FL ..... 5.00
Frances C. Forbes, Stockbridge, GA..... 10.00
Allen Foust, Orange, NJ ..... 10.00
Geneva Mayo, Palaski, TN ..... 5.00

**TOTAL ..... $314.00**

The donation from Georgia State AV Council for $25.00 listed in the last issue of the AVM was given in memory of Helen Beverly Moffatt.
My apologies for the oversight.

# GASTRONOMICAL DELIGHT

by Marion Hamtil

African violets ..... a joy to grow, a thrill to exhibit (hopefully to win a special award), and a gastronomical delight.

A delicious home-made angel cake, with fluffy frosting decorated with sugared violet blossoms, was dessert at a recent meeting of the St. Louis Amethyst African Violet Club. The blossoms were from Mary Mahen's collection, and although they were not eaten, it was fun to try to identify the varieties.

Pictured with president Carolyn Burr, who is holding the cake, are Mary Mahen, Margaret Kline, Susan Hapner, and Marion Hamtil. The absent members knew not what they missed!

*Photo Credit: Mike Mahen*
*Cake by June Nystrom*

# MINUTES ANNUAL MEETING
## AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
**April 17, 2004**
**Tucson, Arizona**

The Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. was called to order by Third Vice President, Ron Davidson, at 2:50 PM in Ballroom F and G of the Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park, Tucson, Arizona. The Invocation was given by Bev Promersberger followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Ron Davidson. Ron Davidson presented the President, Janet Riemer.

Nancy Hayes, Secretary, reported a quorum was present.

Nancy Hayes, Secretary, read the Standing Rules for the Annual Meeting and they were adopted.

President Riemer appointed Shirley Berger, Chairman of the Committee to Approve the 2004 Annual Meeting Minutes, with Jan Davidson and Cheryl Salatino as committee members. Judy Carter was appointed Timekeeper. Carolee Carter, Chairman of the 2003 Committee to Approve the Minutes, reported the Minutes were approved.

Mary Boland, Vice Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented the Courtesy Resolution, which is attached. The Resolution was adopted.

The Nominating Committee Chairman, Barbara Elkin, presented the following report:

Directors to serve until the close of the 2007 Annual Meeting:

Marjorie Bullard – Texas
Christel Collier – Florida
Sue Ramser – Texas
Edna Rourke – Connecticut
Roger Wheeler – Connecticut

No nominations were received from the floor and the Directors were elected by voice vote.

President Riemer announced that the installation of the newly elected Directors would take place at the banquet.

President Riemer recognized the retiring Directors: Shirley Berger, Mary Boland, Jacquie Eisenhut, Ruth Loomis, and Nancy Moerer.

Penny Wichman, Cincinnati Convention Chairman, extended an invitation to the 2005 AVSA Convention and Show to be held April 17-24, 2005 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

President Riemer announced the Vonderheid Bequest to AVSA. A trust office notified AVSA that George and Martha Vonderheid, of Manhattan, Kansas, had left 5% of their estate to AVSA. She indicated how pleased we were that they had the foresight to think of AVSA. Their generosity made the Executive Committee aware that this was something that others might be interested in doing in the future.

President Riemer announced the receipt of a letter from Gerard Hertel of West Chester University, Pennsylvania. He is concerned about the increase in gold mining in Tanzania and the dangers to the areas where the African violet grows. He encourages us to write to the President of Tanzania, the Tanzanian Embassy, and American Embassy. Those addresses are available through President Riemer and will be posted on our website.

Joyce and Kent Stork reported on their recent trip to Hong Kong on behalf of AVSA. AVSA received an invitation to send a representative to the Hong Kong Annual Flower Show. This show has an annual attendance that exceeds 500,000. The government of Hong Kong paid all expenses. The African Violet Association of Hong Kong extended the invitation on behalf of the government. Joyce and Kent were asked to bring plant materials and brought 250 leaf cuttings and crowns. Many gifts were sent to AVSA and were presented at this meeting by the Storks. A paperweight and a picture of pansies, the theme of the show, were presented to President Riemer. Two framed collections of three original watercolor paintings were also presented at this meeting. Jenny Daugereau, Office Manager, and Ruth Rumsey, **AVM** Editor, accepted on behalf of AVSA. These six paintings were created for the covers of the African Violet Association of Hong Kong's magazines from last year. These gifts will be displayed in our AVSA office in Beaumont, Texas.

A list of AVSA members who have died in the past year was read and a moment of silence was observed.

An invitation was extended to attend the Annual Show and Convention of the African Violet Society of Canada to be held May 19-21, 2005 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The host will be the Edmonton African Violet Society. Details will be posted this fall on the website and in The Chatter, the publication of the African Violet Society of Canada.

As there was no further business to come before this Annual Meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Nancy G. Hayes, Secretary

**COMMITTEE TO APPROVE**
Shirley Berger, Chairman
Jan Davidson
Cheryl Salatino

# Showcase

## *Buckeye Gift-wrapped*

*From Best Buckeye Collection*
*2004 National Show*
*Exhibited by:* **Hattie Baggett**
*Hybridized by:* **P. Hancock**
*Large*

*Photo Credit:* **Winston J. Goretsky**

## *Arizona Heat*

*Exhibited & Hybridized by:*
**Kent Stork**
*Standard*

*Photo Credit:* **Winston J. Goretsky**

# Showcase

## *Blue Boy*

*Exhibited by:* **Doris Morris**
*Hybridized by:* **Armacost & Royston**
*Standard*

*Photo Credit:* **Winston J. Goretsky**

## *Country Cider*

*Exhibited by:* **Kathy Bell**
*Hybridized by:* **I. Fredette**
*Large*

*Photo Credit:* **Winston J. Goretsky**

# Boyce Edens Research Fund

by Marjorie Bullard • Corpus Christi, Texas

I started this article because I was so very curious about the type of person who could muster such lasting loyalty and fond memories. Boyce Edens is a name immediately recognized in African violet circles. The Boyce Edens Research Fund is a major resource for the continuing improvement of the African violet. Every issue of the *African Violet Magazine* has meticulous reporting of every donation. Every single member of the AVSA has the opportunity to contribute to this fund, to participate in the growth and development of more hardy violets, and to share in the eradication of the pests and diseases that still plague our plants.

The more I found about Boyce Edens and the Boyce Edens Research Fund, the more interesting it became. But when I tried to commit things to paper, it was dry as dust. This has been very frustrating, because I know that the story is here. I went back to the things written in the 1950s when the African violet really caught fire, and the excitement was there! I think about the few people meeting after the first show – and of course one of them was Boyce Edens. Can you imagine the thrill of having 8,000 to 10,000 people attending the first show of violets? The AVSA was formed November 8, 1946, after that first show in Atlanta, Georgia, and Boyce Edens was named acting secretary. It seems the violet captured the heart of America.

I have found that writing about research is very difficult. The problem with research is that it is research. I mean, how excited can you get about polyploidy or double-chromosomes or tetraplo-idy unless, of course, you are a violet (or a researcher).

***Blue Girl***

I feel like this is a VERY important topic because too few of us know who Boyce Edens is, or understand where violets have been and have not been able to be along for the exciting ride. We deserve to be able to feel the excitement too! I realize what I am really trying to say is that we had African violets as they started. Blue Girl was one of the improved violets; it was the first "girl leaf" and was a real hit. The first convention had predominately blue violets, but there were scattered pinks and whites. People stood in long lines to see these new beauties, and for many it was love, at first sight. 'Blue Boy', 'Blue Girl', 'Pink Beauty', 'White Lady, and others – all new to the violet public. It was exciting!

***Blue Boy***

And now! April, 2004, Tucson, Arizona and a beautiful convention. We have violets like 'Rebel's Midnight Mauve' - one of the AVSA Best Standard Collection, 'Warm Sunshine' - Best New Cultivar, and 'Fancy Lady' – a new cultivar, which were the epitome of perfection. And semis and minis and variegated and reds and purples and edged and two-toned and fantasies and greens and much more. Between 1946 and 2004, we had the **Boyce Edens Research Fund.** Research may be methodical, detailed, repetitive, tedious, boring, and dry as dust, but it is extremely important. The RESULTS are definitely NOT tedious, boring, and dry as dust. The results are on your shelves and stands and in the local, state, and national shows. To get from 'Blue Girl' to 'Fancy Lady', or to 'Rob's

Monkeyshines', the Best Semiminiature in Tucson, is not just one step. It is a LOT of tiny steps over a lot of years and by a lot of people. THAT is exciting!

The Boyce Edens Research Fund was formed in 1952 as a memorial to Boyce Edens. His interest in research and the enthusiasm he brought to it, live today in the work that is done, in the scholarships that are given, and on the shelves and stands and windowsills where the violet is still much loved and enjoyed and still getting better. THAT is exciting!!

# "What Makes a Wonderful Violet Show?"

by Marie Montague

First, a wonderful site must be selected for the Bay State's Spring Show. Could anything be more perfect than the Tower Hill Botanical Garden in Boylston, MA?

Second, club members who were willing to spend many, many hours preparing the show must be found. We were very fortunate to have two experienced people who knew exactly what must be done to lead the way. A Show Chair was named and Chairs for scheduling, staging, classification and entries, hospitality, education, placement, awards, and an individual to select judges/clerks were selected. Once an individual was selected to Chair plant sales, we were ready to go.

We knew hundreds of the public would view the show because it would be well advertised and just the words "Violet Show" would draw people. But how could hundreds of people tour the show comfortably, and would there be enough wonderful plants for sale?

The results:

Something very special happened at Tower Hill on this beautiful spring weekend. You could sense it just before the judges arrived; there was excitement in the air. All who worked on the show were smiling – did we have a hit! A central display had violets wearing 3-D glasses viewing a movie. The judges were given 3-D glasses to view the show in keeping with the theme "Traveling Back to the Future With African Violets." Yes, the judges scored the show very highly, but how would the public view our efforts?

My favorite place at any show is at the plant sales table where you can interact with the public as they purchase plants. Many individuals came to the sales tables first just to make sure they had a full selection of plants to purchase. Violet lovers had waited for a year or more to purchase plants. They came with their wish lists and we busily checked off what they were looking for. They then went to see the show and came back to purchase more plants. Yes, there were sufficient plants for sale.

It's always been my practice when selling violets to ask, "Do you know how to fertilize, or set a leaf?" It wasn't necessary this year. The answers I received were, "Yes, I read about fertilization in your educational display" or "Yes, I went to a class where I learned how to set leaves." Every class was fully attended with 25 - 30 people taking the opportunity to learn from some of our best growers. Over 1,400 people viewed the show, but there was never a sense of crowds because the show plants were arranged in different rooms.

There were special moments during the show. One was when an individual said that the show workers "glowed" with enthusiasm – she had never seen so many dedicated people. Another was when a woman who came to the sales table at the end of the show. There was pure joy on her face when she said, "I've never seen anything like this in my life; I never thought when I came that it would be like this." And, most important, were the people who gathered around the membership table to join Bay State AVS and pick up information forms to become members of AVSA.

# Showcase

## *Ness' Orange Pekoe*

*Exhibited by:* **Esther Hopkins**
*Hybridized by:* **D. Ness**
*Large*

*Photo Credit:* **Winston J. Goretsky**

## *Halo's Aglitter*

*Exhibited by:* **Doris Morris**
*Hybridized by:* **S. Sorano**
*Standard*

*Photo Credit:* **Winston J. Goretsky**

*Photo Credit:* **Winston J. Goretsky**

# *Streptocarpus 'Janus'*

*Best Streptocarpus in Show*

*2004 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by:* **Fern Hildinger**

# African Violet Society of America (AVSA) Website
# Navigation Bar References/Usage

Jim Owens, AVSA Web Master

The navigation bar appears on the left-hand side of every page accessed on the AVSA website with the exception of pages opened in another window to view articles, other 'linked' sites, and information. You can return to the AVSA page from the website in an opened window by closing the window. As you move the mouse over a navigation button, the button changes color to help you click on the proper page link. In addition, when you go to one of the linked pages, the navigational button for the linked page changes color to remind you which page you are currently viewing. Any page can be accessed by pressing the appropriate button on the page being viewed.

(Note: If you click on the navigational bar button, and are connected to the internet, the associated page will appear in your internet browser.)

**Home Page** - The home page contains: African Violet Magazine (AVM) highlights for articles in the current issue, links to the guidelines for the use of copyrighted materials, to the office location (and map), and scholarship information/application. A link to change and/or supply contact information invokes a 'fill-in form' where members can provide a change of address and/or phone number, request publications, or obtain other services to/from the AVSA Office. (The home page is the first page you see when you enter the site unless you specifically 'link' your bookmark to another page.)

**Membership** – The membership page outlines the benefits of joining AVSA and contains a link (at the bottom of the page) to the 'join' form where you can fill out the information to become a member.

**Local Clubs** – The local clubs page provides you with a 'regional' selection list. Choose the state in which you would like to find, or see, the information for local clubs in that area. Clicking on the region containing the state will direct you to a listing of all clubs in the region by state. You can find a club and get information on meeting times, places, and addresses by scrolling the display screen. In addition, you will find the names, phone numbers, and email addresses of the people to contact in that club. (Note: the contact information is dependant on what the individual club member is willing to supply.)

**National Convention** – The national convention page contains information about current and future conventions, hotel and convention registration forms, reports from past convention (if available), and other related information. For example, on the left-hand side of the screen (between the navigation bar and text) you will see links labeled: ***Convention Information, Tours, Show Winners, Commercial Winners, Awards and Presentations***. Convention information is a list of tours for the upcoming convention with links to the detailed tour write-ups. Tours is a direct link to the tour write-ups. Show winners is a list of the winners at the last national convention, and commercial winners is a list of the commercial winners at the last convention. Awards are a listing of awards to be given at the upcoming national convention. Presentations are the workshops that will be presented at the upcoming convention.

**What's New** on the Website or with AVSA. Keep up-to-date on photographic changes in the Photo Gallery, additions/changes to the website, and important AVSA announcements by accessing the "What's New" page.

**Upcoming Events** - Shows, sales, and other **affiliate events** are listed on this page by date and category. Here you can locate a show or sale near you by scrolling the list of upcoming events. Users may post their affiliate's upcoming events from a link on this page.

**Photographs** – The Photograph Gallery is a collection of African violet photographs donated to the gallery. By selecting a letter in the alphabet you can view all available photos of violets whose names begin with the selected letter. You may click on any picture within the list to view a larger version of the photograph and return to the list using the back button. At the top of the page there are links to articles on ***"Submission Guidelines"*** *(for photographs),* ***"How to Submit Photographs"***, and ***"Personal vs. Commercial Use of Photographs"***.

**AVSA Magazine** – The *African Violet Magazine* page on the website contains a limited number of previously published articles from the magazine and a "research tool" called **Article Index**. The available articles are contained in a table and clicking on the title will open a window with the published article. The **Article Index** link takes you to a page where you can search a list of articles from 1947 to date that have been published in the AVM. You may search by classification (category/subcategory), author's last name, author's last and first name, or year to retrieve a list of all articles in that classification, by that author, or in a specific year. The information contains article title, year, month of publication, and page number. This page provides a perfect tool for researchers or individuals who want

to locate an article or articles on a topic. (Note: All years may not be available, but the Publication Committee continues to add years as they are compiled. Articles are not available online for reading or browsing... you must have the AVM issue, or order it from the office, to read the article.)

**AVSA Library** – the AVSA Library page contains links to AVSA Affiliate club yearbooks and schedules. Affiliate Clubs may summit their club schedules and/or yearbooks to the webmaster for publication here. The club materials are downloadable and may be printed or used as a template for your club's schedule or yearbook. They also provide ideas for organization and content of affiliate publications. In addition, there are links to the Honor Roll and Vintage Violets listing. The final link on this page is an Adobe slide presentation of **First Class,** Version 2, which contains information on using this valuable product. (First Class is a computerized program containing the African Violet Master List (AVML) of species and cultivars).

Frequently Asked Questions (**FAQ**) - Questions and Answers about growing AV's. On this page you may submit questions to AVSA regarding the care and growing of African violets and receive an individual, personalized answer to your question or problem. Hundreds of questions and answers are categorized and posted here. You can browse submitted questions and answers to look for a solution to your problem or get an answer to your specific question. On the left-hand side of the page (between the navigation bar and the text) is a table of articles about caring for your violets. (These are based on the most asked questions.) By clicking on the article title, you can read about *Basic Violet Care, Blossoms and Foliage, Dividing a Leaf, Clump-Rooting Leaf Cuttings, Cross Breeding, FAQ Topic and Subject Reference, Plant Stand Alternatives, Problem Pests and Treatments, Repotting My African Violet, and Why Won't My Violets Bloom?*

**Judges Forum** - Questions and answers about Judging African violet shows, much like the FAQ's above, are contained on this page. On the left-hand side of the page (between the navigation bar and the text) is a table of articles of interest to Judges. By clicking on the article title, you can read about *Basic Violet Care, Blossoms and Foliage, Judging the Show Plant, and Plant Registration.* (The latter article has instructions for registering a new cultivar.)

**Committees** – The committees' page contains a link to the ***Nominating Committee Questionnaire***. Using this link, you can obtain the form to nominate a member to serve on the Board of Directors. The form is also used to nominate Officers; however, there are stipulations, such as the member must have had prior board experience. The major function of the page is to locate members of AVSA committees. From the drop-down box, you can select a committee name and the name of all members of that committee will be displayed along with an e-mail link, if available. Clicking on the e-mail link will take you to your internet e-mail box where you can compose and send that person an email. (Note: Other contact information, such as address and phone number, are not available.)

**AVSA STORE** - View and purchase available store merchandise. On the store page, you can find links to AVSA merchandise descriptions. Links are provided to Amazon.com for those books not sold by AVSA. Here you will find AVSA merchandise, books for hobby growers, and for show growers. You may order First Class, First Class updates, African Violet Master List (AMVL) and Convention CD's.

**AVSA Vendors** - This page contains a listing and contact information for vendors associated with AVSA. Select a state from the 'drop-down' menu and a list of vendors in the selected state will be displayed. (You may view all vendors by selecting '**ALL**' in the drop-down menu.) The information displayed is: Name of Vendor, Address, City, Zip Code, Country, Phone Number, E-mail Address (if available), Website URL (if available), Hours of Operation, Products Offered, and Contact Name. Clicking on the e-mail address will take you to your email program, giving you the opportunity to contact the vendor. Clicking on the website URL will open that vendor's website in a new window, permitting you to browse their site. All vendors listed are members of AVSA and, as such, are held to high standards imposed by the Commercial Committee.

**Links to Other Sites** – This page contains links to:

- Affiliates: AVSA affiliates with web sites
- Horticultural Societies
- Non-Profit, informational links dealing with African violets
- Commercial informational links
- AVSA Commercial Members (See AVSA Vendors)

Clicking on any listed link will open that web site in another window. Any organization who qualifies according to our policies (listed on the page) may add their link to this page by clicking on the form link and submitting the required information.

**Contact Us** – Clicking this navigation button takes you to your e-mail program where you can compose and send an email to the office of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

There is a 'Site Credit' button at the bottom of the screen on the left-hand side. Clicking this button lists the name of the designer, the web master, and the hosting server company.

The site is constantly being updated, and you may find other bar buttons and links as you navigate the site.

*Photo Credit:* **Winston J. Goretsky**

# *Taffeta Blue*

*Exhibited by:* **Mark A. Weston**

*Hybridized by:* **L. Lyon**

*Standard*

*Photo Credit:* **Winston J. Goretsky**

## *"Mariachi Melody"*

*Exhibited by:* **Marlene J. Buck**

# Annual Library Message

**Anne Nicholas** • 3113 Deerfield • Denton, TX 76208 • *email:* RandANICHO@aol.com

Anne Nicholas

## First DVD of National Show

The 2004 AVSA Convention and Show in Tucson was truly a memorable show. The hotel space and grounds, the show staging, the sales room, the workshops, the banquets, and most of all, the show itself, provided a multitude of delights. The Library photography team worked hard to capture the spirit of Tucson's "A Fiesta of Violets." The photographers and the Library Committee thank Kathy Bell, Thelma Heinrich, and all of the hosting members for their help in providing a great workspace.

Four talented photographers took digital pictures for the AVSA Library committee. These four, Tom Glembocki, Marjorie Bullard, Norwood Hazard, and Christel Collier, worked diligently, tirelessly, and conscientiously to get just the right color and angle of each exhibit.

In the past, affiliates from around the nation and abroad have been able to rent 35 mm slide shows of each year's convention. In addition to this traditional format, we are very excited to offer our first DVD of a convention show. Our very talented Tom Glembocki is producing this DVD. The DVD can be rented from the AVSA office and can be played at any meeting location that has a DVD player and a TV. The DVD will include all the information of the traditional slide show and more.

Again this year, a CD of the show for use with a computer will be sold through the AVSA office. This CD is in a wonderful memory book format and is an outstanding review of not only the show, but other aspects of the convention.

As always, the AVSA Library needs up-dated and quality programs. The requests for good "how-to" programs are endless. Look ahead at your program offerings for this next year. Maybe you can support AVSA by recording a program in a format that can be enjoyed by others. Also, any written materials are very useful additions to the AVSA Library. Affiliate yearbooks, newsletters, and schedules can be included in informational packets available from the AVSA office. Written materials that are available in a format that can be used on the AVSA Library website are extremely helpful. If you can contribute in any way, please contact Anne Nicholas, the AVSA Library Chair.

Again, many thanks go to Jenny Daugereau, Office Manager, and Kelle Espinoza, Office Secretary, who spend countless hours organizing and sending out Library materials to affiliates and individuals around the country.

## ORDER ALL LIBRARY MATERIALS FROM AVSA OFFICE

### DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

### SECTION 1: CONVENTION SHOWS

The following are slide programs of outstanding exhibits at National Convention shows; they are especially entertaining for members not attending conventions.

**163L** **"THE NEW ENGLAND SPIRIT"** (C) (80 Slides) Experience the best of the award-winning plants and designs displayed "The New England Way," Boston 1990.

**166L** **"VIOLETS IN THE GOLDEN STATE"** (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning plants and designs from the Santa Clara convention 1991.

**167L** **"A CENTURY OF VIOLETS"** (C) (80 Slides) An exciting presentation of award-winning plants and designs from "Violet Heritage and Horizons," Columbus 1992.

**169L** **"MORE PENNSYLVANIA FRIENDS"** (C) (80 Slides) of award-winning exhibits at the 1993 National Convention Show.

**171L** **"A FESTIVAL OF VIOLETS"** (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning exhibits - both horticulture and design from the Denver National AVSA Show 1994.

**175L** **"ST. LOUIS BLUES AND OTHER COLORS"** (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning exhibits – both horticulture and design from the 1995 St. Louis Convention.

**179L** **"ATLANTA REVISITED! OUR 50TH"** (C) (79 Slides) Many of the winning exhibits, both horticulture and design, enjoyed at the 50th Anniversary convention, Atlanta, GA 1996.

**183L** **"VIOLETS AT THE BEACH"** (C) (78 Slides) Winning exhibits from the convention show 1997 at St. Petersburg Beach, FL.

**190L** **"WE VISIT SACRAMENTO - 1998"** (C) (80 Slides) Horticulture and designs presented by exhibitors in our convention show, April 1998 in California.

**193L** **"HOUSTON BEAUTIES - 1999"** (C) (80 Slides) of the convention show 1999.

**197L** **"GO WILD IN OMAHA - 2000"** (C) (80 Slides) Pictures of "wild" horticulture and design winners from the AVSA convention in Omaha, May, 2000.

**200L** **"CHICAGO SHOW BEAUTIES - 2001"** Horticulture Design, and Commercial winners at the Convention Show in Chicago. (80 Slides).

**201L** **"MR. VIOLET GOES TO WASHINGTON"** (C) (80 Slides). See the award winning exhibits in horticulture, design, and more! Selected from over 800 entries at the 2002 show.

**202L** **"BEST OF THE 90'S"** (C) (80 Slides). The top winners in horticulture and design from the national shows from 1990-1999. The Best of the Best!!

**203L** **"35th ANNUAL AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA CONVENTION & SHOW"** May 1-5, 2002 (80 Slides).

**204** **"LOUISIANA LAGNIAPPE"** (C) (80 Slides).

**205** **NEW INTRODUCTIONS OF 2002 AND 2003** (C) (50 Slides).

**206** **2003 CANADIAN NATIONAL AV SHOW** (80 Slides).

**CD of the 2004 AVSA Convention and Show in Tucson, AZ.**
**Order from the AVSA Office.**
**$9.95 - US $14.95 - International**

### SECTION II: NEW INTRODUCTIONS

The following is a series of programs compiled from slides of new cultivars submitted by hybridizers and commercial members.

**168L** **"GEMS OF COLUMBUS"** (C) (80 Slides) A collection of slides depicting the best new introductions at the 1992 Columbus, Ohio convention.

**170L** **"LANCASTER LOVELIES"** (C) (80 Slides) The best 1993 introductions shown by Ray "Sundown" Pittman at the Lancaster Convention.

**172L** **"DENVER DEBUTANTES"** (C) (80 Slides) Selected outstanding 1994 introductions from various hybridizers. Presented by Kent Stork at the Denver Convention.

**176L** **"WE MET IN ST. LOUIS"** (C) (80 Slides) - Meet the 1995 new hybrids - slides submitted by various hybridizers and introduced at the St. Louis convention.

**180L** **"FIFTY YEARS AND GROWING"** (C) (80 Slides) Slides submitted by various hybridizers and shown in Atlanta, GA at the 50th Anniversary convention.

**184L** **"NEW VARIETIES ON PARADE"** (C) (71 Slides) Hybridizers share slides of their new varieties presented at 1997 Convention in St. Petersburg Beach, FL.

**191L** **"NEW CULTIVARS - 1998"** (C) (50 Slides) Slides of new plants from our hybridizers.

**199L** **"NEW INTRODUCTIONS - 2001"** Slides of new cultivars from our hybridizers (48 slides).

### SECTION III : AFRICAN VIOLET LIFE

Section III is a series of slide programs relative primarily to African violet culture and related subjects. They are somewhat dated but with much helpful information for the novice grower.

**140L "MULTIPLYING SAINTPAULIAS"** (65 Slides) Basic program on African violet propagation including leaf cuttings, plant division, seed and grafting. Slides show how to produce and plant seeds.

**147L "THE AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT"** (77 Slides) A good, basic program identifying leaf types, blossom form and colors, and diseases that affect the foliage.

**150L "THE PITTMAN WAY OF GROWING VIOLETS"** (C) (84 Slides) A step-by-step visual program on growing and grooming miniature and semiminiature African violets.

**151L "THE SAINTPAULIA SPECIES"** (79 Slides) A comprehensive, educational, workshop-type program. Very thorough and somewhat technical. A depicted work by Neva Anderson.

**161L "POINTERS IN JUDGING"** (C) (74 Slides) A revised version of workshop program for judges and exhibitors. Emphasis on grooming of plants in preparation for showing.

**182L "TRAILERS - MAKING THEM DO WHAT I WANT THEM TO DO"** (C) (70 Slides) (1997) Bev Promersberger demonstrates how she grows trailers that make the "Winners Circle".

**194L "DESIGNING FOR SHOW"** (66 Slides) Program includes step-by-step instruction for construction of a terrarium followed by lovely examples of the different design types for exhibition.

### SECTION IV: GESNERIADS

Listed below are programs identifying African violet cousins, their care, and propagation.

**139L "MEET THE FAMILY"** (C) (60 Slides) A vivid look at some of the other members of the gesneriad family, compiled and narrated by Margaret Waguespack. An informative program for those who want to broaden their growing horizons or for those who just want to "meet the family".

**178L "UNUSUAL GESNERIADS FOR THE LIGHT GARDEN"** (C) (54 Slides) A group of the smaller gesneriads suitable for the light stand.

### SECTION V: VIOLET PESTS AND DISEASES

These slide programs identify pests and diseases and their impact on African violet cultivars.

**132L "AFRICAN VIOLET PESTS"** (C) (52 Slides) A short, succinct program by Dr. Charles L. Cole with vivid illustration of common African violet pests.

**152L "VIOLET TROUBLES"** (63 Slides) Pests, diseases, and results of poor culture exhibited in the program. An oldie, but good basic information.

### SECTION VI: SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**187L 30TH AVSC CONVENTION - TORONTO 1997** Slides of the Canadian Show. (80 slides)

**195L "AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA CONVENTION & SHOW, TORONTO, CANADA", 1999** - (80 Slides) of beautiful photography highlight this show.

**198L "AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA Convention & Show, Ottawa, 2001"**, (87 Slides).

### VIDEO TAPES

**173L "AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THE NEW GARDEN"** Ken Froboese talks violets - a visit with Ken in his greenhouse, Hill Country African Violets.

**185L "GROWING BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS"** (28 minutes). Anna Jean Landgren demonstrates how she grows trailers. One of a series of presentations for TV by members of Illinois State AV Society.

**186L "TEACHING THE TRICKS"** (27 minutes) A second presentation of the cable TV productions - this one shows Jean Willey instructing new grower Tracy Bruns in the basics of African violet growing. Particularly good for novice growers.

**188L "RAGS TO RICHES"** - Another cable TV presentation in the series of House Plant How-tos. This is by Andrea Worell as she demonstrates how to groom or redo those African violets that need "help".

**189L "PROPAGATING YOUR POSIES"** - This video, also by Andrea Worell, shows how she starts African violets and some other gesneriads. Another of the House Plant How-tos series. Andrea has a new slant on an old idea. Very entertaining.

**196L "BASIC AFRICAN VIOLET CARE"** - 25 minute video by Don Geiss is a good introduction to growing African Violets.

**207L "A FIESTA OF VIOLETS"** - 2004 (C) (80 slides) Award winning exhibits from the 2004 AVSA Convention and Show in Tucson, AZ.

### DVD

**207 DL "A FIESTA OF VIOLETS"** - 2004 **DVD** - Award winning exhibits from the 2004 AVSA Convention and Show in Tucson, AZ.

### PACKETS

1. Packets are loaned for a period of one month, as available.
2. Requests for two or more packets will be filled whenever possible.
3. Packets must be returned postpaid by FIRST, THIRD, OR FOURTH CLASS MAIL.
4. Cost of each packet is $3.00 and must be paid by check to AVSA at time of request.

### DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF PACKETS

**155L JUST FOR FUN PACKET:** "Violet Carol" Christmas skit in one act. A fun way to celebrate the holidays with a skit performed by your club members. This is an original skit written by Kent Stork of Kent's Flowers, Fremont, NE, and donated to the AVSA Library.

**156L NEWSLETTER/MAGAZINE PACKET:** Anyone desiring to start a newsletter or magazine would find this packet helpful.

**157L PROGRAM-PLANNING PACKET:** Suggestions to help a program chairman or committee plan the programs for a club's activities.

**158L SHOW SCHEDULES PACKET:** Show schedules of African violet shows from different sections of the country. Excellent for new ideas and those clubs planning their first show.

**159L YEARBOOK COLLECTION PACKET:** This packet contains yearbooks from various affiliate clubs. Especially recommended for clubs producing their first yearbook.

**192L INSTALLATION PACKET:** A collection of different installation programs that will be found interesting and useful for installing your new officers.

### RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR USE OF AVSA LIBRARY MATERIALS

Library materials are available for use by AVSA members and affiliates in good standing, subject to the following rules and regulations.

### REQUEST FOR MATERIALS

Send requests to the AVSA Office, 2375 North St., Beaumont, Texas 77702. If you do not have an AVSA order form, please include in your request **(1) Name of affiliate, (2) Name of person ordering and person's membership number, (3) Shipping address, (4) Name of slide program or packet, (5) Whether or not cassette (where available) is desired, (6) Date to be shown**. Order forms are included in shipment for future use.

### SLIDE PROGRAMS – VIDEO TAPES

1. Make request for reservation three (3) months in advance of date desired with information outlined above. Give first, second, and third choices of slide programs for each reservation date.
2. Slide programs and video tapes are shipped using a special shipping box. Please use the special box to return the programs to the AVSA office immediately after scheduled reserved date. Return by UPS or First Class Mail only. For First Class, we request that you insure the program for $50.00. If you use UPS, the package is automatically insured for $100.00. For members in other countries: please return programs postpaid by the safest and most expeditious postal means available.

**A $5.00 PER WEEK PENALTY WILL BE ASSESSED FOR ANY PROGRAM NOT POSTMARKED WITHIN FOUR (4) DAYS AFTER SCHEDULED RESERVED DATE, UNLESS OTHER ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.**

Return programs to:
**AVSA OFFICE**
2375 NORTH STREET • BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77702

3. Special requests for two or more slide programs for the same date may be made and will be filled when possible, but such requests are not encouraged because of the great demand for slide programs and the limited number available.
4. The cost of slide program with cassette is $10.00, and the cost of a slide program without cassette is $8.00. Only those slide programs in the descriptive list with a "(C)" after the titles have cassettes. Those programs may be reserved with or without the cassettes. Cost of video and DVD programs are $10.00.

Entrance to Hong Kong Flower Show

Dr. Cheung's Plant Room

Members of African Violet Association of Hong Kong

Royal Rage - Best Violet in Open Class

Violet Foo, Grower of Best In Show

# A Visit with the African Violet Association of Hong Kong

by Kent and Joyce Stork

We were privileged to be able to represent AVSA at the Opening Ceremonies of the 5th Hong Kong Flower Show at the invitation of the African Violet Association of Hong Kong on March 5, 2004. AVSA was one of 65 overseas horticultural organizations from over 17 countries who were represented at the government-sponsored event.

The annual Hong Kong Flower Show was a major event in the city, attracting 550,000 people over the ten days it was open this year. It is staged outside, but is similar to flower shows in the United States, with big landscape displays that follow a theme surrounded by tented stalls of commercial plants and supplies, and horticultural association booths. This show also included several sizeable areas of competitive classes for the public (similar to a county fair) which included many flower designs, bonsai, dish gardens, orchids, houseplants, and violets. The entire event covered about ten city blocks of Victoria Park, on Hong Kong island, which is usually reserved for tennis and outdoor sports.

This year's theme was "Pansy Fantasia", and pansies were seen in many of the big landscape displays, including a rainbow that stood some ten feet tall made entirely of flowers. Disneyland is developing a theme park in the area and did an imaginative display with the "Fantasia" movie characters recreated entirely of blooming plants. The opening ceremonies featured a charming dance by young Hong Kong girls dressed as pansies, butterflies, and bees. We were privileged to be seated near the front for this event, next to the individuals from Disney.

The spectacular show is sponsored by the Department of Culture and Leisure Services, a governmental entity that paid the costs of transportation and housing for all of the invited representatives. Similarly, the department pays many of the costs the AVAHK encounters as it educates the public and displays African violets. In exchange, all income from shows and sales of educational and growing materials is returned to the government.

Violets are quite important to the citizens of Hong Kong. Most of the 7 million residents live in tiny spaces (100 square feet per person) with very little room to garden. Nonetheless, they cherish live plants. Violets, especially miniatures, fit into the apartment window space and do not take up much room. The Hong Kong Flower Show competition included classes of violets from adults as well as elementary and secondary students. While it was easy to pick out the plants of members of the AVAHK, the quality of the plants was generally quite good at all the levels. Standard size violets were generally kept at a compact size, rarely larger than twelve inches in diameter. Miniature and semiminiature plants are favored, and we saw many of them in competition.

Aside from the public competition, the club staged a covered booth which was filled with beautiful, but petite, African violets set behind sheets of plexiglass to prevent the public from removing leaves. Members proudly put up a sign proclaiming this the booth of the African Violet Society of America, although all of the plant material that we transported to Hong Kong was safely stored in a member's home. One of the best laughs was when they opened the box of about 200 cuttings Kent had prepared and saw that the leaves in the top package were bigger than most of the plants they grow!

After spending several days getting acclimated, touring the city, and visiting the flower show, we were privileged to spend one last day getting to know the growing methods and the members of the AVAHK.

The AVAHK is composed of about 250 members who meet bi-monthly at a school. In between meetings, they attend classes taught by members of the select Central Committee. This is done to foster friendships and growing skills. The top violet exhibitor at this year's show, Violet Foo, had grown violets for only four years and was considered a junior member. Her lovely plants, including 'Royal Rage' which won the show, were quickly drawing attention to her growing skills. We later had the privilege to meet with her and discuss how she had grown them. It was evident that she had listened closely to her teacher and had perfected her growing room.

The permanent president of the club is 91 year old Mr. Leung Tai-hung, a very spry gentleman who founded the group 27 years ago. He is quite well-off, and lives in a luxurious apartment complex with a 2-level flat that is at the top of his building, allowing him to have a greenhouse on the roof. It is in this tarp-covered area that he grows all of his violets and gesneriads, carefully regulating the temperature, water, and fluorescent light with automatic controls. He is very generous with his club members, freely offering them cuttings of any plant that might interest them.

The club chairman, Mr. Lau Hin-cheung, is the one who actually runs the meetings and coordinates most activities. He is a elegant older man who stresses the importance of harmony among members. His best friend is a well-known artist and violet grower, Joseph Cheung, whose home we visited. Mr. Cheung's home was filled with art students while we were there, but he lead us back to a room the size of an average American bathroom. Here we saw 500 or more small violets, growing under fluorescent light on shelves that began at the floor and rose to the ceiling. Again, the temperature was care-

fully controlled throughout the room with thermometers at all levels and fans in every corner. Many of the plants were growing in tiny "thumb" pots that were set into little liqueur glasses which served as water reservoirs. We were amazed at how pristine and clean the area was. His wife nodded and said, "It took four days!" Apparently several members had been there to help him prepare for the club visit. He also made certain that we took home a 'Rob's Lucky Penny' which is a great favorite of the members there.

The members have learned how to cope with the high humidity of Hong Kong. Their homes are well air-conditioned to handle the extreme summer heat. They have adapted the Texas-method of growing with a club-designed attractive pot in three different sizes which many of the growers use. The potting mix is composed of two parts of perlite to one part each of peat and vermiculite, to avoid problems with rotting. Members have also produced a thorough manual of growing techniques which is for sale. Most of the varieties we saw were from American hybridizers, especially Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses and Rob's Violets.

On our last evening, we gathered with the members of the Central Committee of the AVAHK for an elaborate meal of traditional Chinese foods. We had traveled with gifts for the officers and members, including membership pins from AVSA and chocolates from our local Nebraska club. They in turn had gifts for us to bring home including two framed collections of Mr. Cheung's watercolors of African violets for the AVSA office in Beaumont, Texas. We had earlier received mementos of the Hong Kong Flower Show as gifts for the office and for President Janet Riemer.

The language barrier presented a few minor challenges, mostly because we were unused to each other's accents. Many members speak some English, and English was common on street signs and public transit. The number of people who live on these islands is staggering to mid-western Americans. Nonetheless, these growers had problems like any of us...bugs, fungus, too many plants and too little time.

For the love of African violets. That summarizes much of the attitude we saw in Hong Kong. People come together because they share an interest in violets. Plants are sold not for profit but for the privilege of sharing. Regular instructional meetings are given so that new members can learn from the most experienced members. Beautiful displays of violets are assembled so that the public can see how the plants should look with proper care. Just like us, the AVAHK does it all because they love violets. They were also some of the nicest people we have ever met, much like our violet friends at home...they just live on the other side of the world.

# WHAT IS WRONG WITH MY PLANTS

**Questions:** My plant has soft and drooping leaves. What is wrong and what can I do?

| POSSIBLE REASON | REMEDY |
|---|---|
| 1. Dehydration. Check potting mix - if it is bone dry this is the cause. | Water plant gradually. Do not make potting mix into a soggy pool. If the plant is slow to recover, a short time in a covered container or plastic bag will often cause plant to "perk" up. |
| 2. Root rot is present when roots are dark brown or black. | You need to take a crown cutting to remove all dead and infected roots. To do this, remove all but 4-6 center leaves, cut stem about 2 cm from crown, making sure there is no sign of rot in cutting. Re-pot in fresh potting mix. |
| 3. Crown rot may have occurred where base of stem is rotten (plant wobbles if you tweak a leaf). | Take a crown cutting (as above) making sure to remove all brown areas of stem. |
| 4. Excessive heat or cold. | Move plant to a position with a temperature range of 65-75°F approx. |
| 5. Excessive fertilizer in potting mix. | Re-pot or flush salts from potting mix with water and drain well. |
| 6. Soil Mealy Bug. Outer leaves sometimes die prematurely. (Check root-ball for small, white oval specks that move only slowly when prodded). | Take a leaf or crown cutting, washing to make sure there are no mealy bugs or eggs present. Throw out infected remains and check all other plants. |
| 7. Transplant root shock (if recently transplanted). | Place plant in a plastic bag until recovered then - open bag for a few days before removing. |

From *African Violet News*, Official Journal of the AV-Gesneriad Society of NSW, Inc.

# Coming Events

**September 10 & 11 - FLORIDA**
Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society presenting
Workshops at the Gesneriad Gathering,
U. of South Florida Botanical Gardens
Pine and Alumni St.
4202 Fowler Ave.
Tampa, FL
Sept 10 - 10am - 5pm
Sept 11 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Mollie Howell (727) 797 - 2328
Email: molliehowell@ij.net

**September 11 - CALIFORNIA**
Ventura County AVS Plant and Supply Sale
Pacific View Mall
Corner of Mills and Main Streets
Ventura, CA
Hours: 10am - 9pm
Info: Georgetta Brickley (805) 647 - 7173
Email: av1brick@hotmail.com

**September 10 & 11 - TEXAS**
Alpha AVS, First of Dallas AVS, &
First Nighter AVS
Combined Plant Sale
Richardson Square Mall
501 S. Plano Rd. @ Beltline
Richardson, TX
Both Days: 10am - 9pm
Info: Grace Davis (972) 278 - 0389

**September 11 - PENNSYLVANIA**
Pittsburgh Violet and
Gesneriad Society Exhibit/Sale
Galleria, 1500 Washington Rd.
Mt. Lebanon, Pittsburgh, PA
Hours: 10am - 8pm
Info: Georgene Albrecht (724) 693 - 8666
Email: georgena@verizon.com

**September 11 & 12 - COLORADO**
Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers Show/Sale
Denver Botanic Gardens
1005 York Street
Denver, CO
Sept 11 - 1pm - 4pm
Sept 12 - 10am - 4:30pm
Info: Ann Watterson (303) 467 - 2135
Email: cah2oson@msn.com

**September 24 & 25 - IOWA**
Cedar Valley AVC Show/Sale
Crossroads Mall
Waterloo, IA
Sept 24 - 10am - 9pm
Sept 25 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Barbara Pershing (319) 987 - 2235
Email: barbara.pershing@uni.edu

**September 25 - CALIFORNIA**
Fancy Bloomers AVS Plant Sale
Coddingtown Mall
Guerneville Rd. at Hwy. 101
Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Alice Downing (707) 829 - 7760
Email: doghouse@sonic.net

**Sept 25 & 26 - WISCONSIN**
Wisconsin Council of Garden Clubs
Judged Show/Sale
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave.
Madison, WI
Both Days: 10am - 5pm
Info: Alice Peterson (608) 833 - 5552
Email: peters56@tds.net

**September 26 - CANADA**
Toronto AVS Open House/Plant Sale
Toronto Botanical Gardens
Civic Garden Center
777 Lawrence Ave. E
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Hours: 1pm - 4pm
Info: Don (416) 964 - 9305
Louise (416) 445 - 7774

**October 1 & 2 - OHIO**
Ohio State AVC Show
Kingwood Center
Mansfield, OH
Oct 1 - 1pm - 4pm
Oct 2 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Martha Bell (330) 483 - 3546
Email: mbell77@msn.com

**October 2 - WASHINGTON**
The Saintpaulia Society of Tacoma
Show/Sale
Watson's Greenhouses
6211 Pioneer Way East
Puyallup, WA
Info: (253) 535 - 5973

**October 2 - OKLAHOMA**
AVS of Greater Tulsa Plant Sale
Tulsa Garden Center
2435 South Peoria
Tulsa, OK
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Rose Howlett (918) 627 - 7395

**Oct 2 & 3 - TEXAS**
Spring Branch AVC Annual Fall Sale
Hermann Park Garden Center
1500 Hermann Dr.
Houston, TX
Oct 2 - 9am - 5pm
Oct 3 - Noon - 4pm
Info: Ruth Goeke (979) 830 - 2126
Email: teresa.cannon@halliburton.com

**October 2 & 3 - MICHIGAN**
Michigan State AVS Display/Sale
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 Dixboro Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI
Oct 2 - 10am - 4:30pm
Oct 3 - 10am - 2pm
Info: Ingrid Bowman (248) 698 - 3628

**October 8 & 9 - MINNESOTA**
AVS of Minnesota Show/Sale
Har Mar Mall
Snelling Ave. & County Rd. B
Roseville, MN
Oct 8 - 10am - 9pm
Oct 9 - 10am - 5pm
Info: Ruth Bann
Email: rebels@mninter.net

**October 9 & 10 - PENNSYLVANIA**
AVS of Philadelphia Show/Sale
Plymouth Meeting Hall
Germantown Pike & Hickory Rd.
Plymouth Meeting, PA
Oct 9 - 1pm - 7pm
Oct 10 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Marianne Gershon (215) 393 - 0852

**October 16 & 17 - TEXAS**
First Austin AVS Fall Show/Sale
Austin Area Garden Center
Zilker Botanical Garden
2200 Barton Springs Rd.
Austin, TX
Oct 16 - 10am - 4:30pm
Oct 17 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Nancy Reuter (512) 931 - 2788
Email: nancy@nancysphotos.com

**October 16 & 17 - CALIFORNIA**
Thousand Oaks AVS
AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Thousand Oaks Library
1401 Janss Rd.
Thousand Oaks, CA
Oct 16 - 11:30am - 5pm
Oct 17 - 1pm - 4pm
Info: Barbara Burde (805) 581 - 6126
Email: hhkid76-av@yahoo.com

**October 23 & 24 - FLORIDA**
AV Council of Florida Show/Sale
Belz Factory Outlet World
500 Belz Outlet Blvd. (Off I-95)
St. Augustine, FL
Mall Hours
Info: Phyllis King rphyllis@verizon.net
Lynne Wilson tpalynne@tampabay.rr.com

**October 23 & 24 - CALIFORNIA**
Delta Gesneriad & AVS Show/Sale
Sacramento Garden & Arts Center
3300 McKinley Blvd
Sacramento, CA
Oct 23 - 2pm - 5pm
Oct 24 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Lynn Lombard
lynn_lombard@worldnet.att.net

**October 23 - COLORADO**
Rocky Mountain AV Council Plant Sale
Denver Botanic Gardens
1005 York St.
Denver, CO
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Ann Watterson (303) 467 - 2135
Email: cah2oson@msn.com

**October 23 - OREGON**
Portland AVS Fall Sale
Tabor Heights Methodist Church
6161 SE Stark
Portland, OR
Hours: 10am - 3pm
Info: Bill Walsh (503) 288 - 2874

**October 28 - 30 - TEXAS**
Lone Star AV Council Annual Convention
Hosted by the First Austin AVS
Red Lion Hotel
6121 N. I-35 @ Hwy. 290 E.
Austin, TX

**October 29 & 30 - NEW YORK**
New York State AVS Convention/Show
Owego Treadway Inn & Suites
1100 State Route 17C
Owego, NY
Show: Oct 29 - 3pm - 5pm
Oct 30 - 9am - 4pm
Info: leestradley555@aol.com

**October 30 & 31 - CONNECTICUT**
Nutmeg State AVS Annual Show/Sale
Days Inn, Exit 55, I-95
Branford, CT
Oct 30 - 1pm - 4pm
Oct 31 - 10am - 3pm
Info: (203) 281 - 1715

**October 30 & 31 - MINNESOTA**
North Star AV Council Display/Sale
Bachman's
6010 Lyndale Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN
Oct 30 - 10am - 5pm
Oct 31 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Sandy Officer (952) 835 - 8603
Email: Sandyo2@att.net

# Planting by Moon Signs

### Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

### Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardiness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

### Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

### Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

### Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

### Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

### Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

### Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

### Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

### Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

### Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

### Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

**September Moon Table**

| Date | Sign | Element | Nature | Phase | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Wed. | Aries | Fire | Barren | 3rd | |
| 2 Thu. 8:16 pm | Taurus | earth | Semi-fruitful | 3rd | |
| 3 Fri. | Taurus | Earth | Semi-fruitful | 3rd | |
| 4 Sat. | Taurus | Earth | Semi-fruitful | 3rd | |
| 5 Sun. 6:24 am | Gemini | Air | Barren | 3rd | |
| 6 Mon. | Gemini | Air | Barren | 4th | 11:10 am |
| 7 Tue. 6:50 pm | Cancer | Water | Fruitful | 4th | |
| 8 Wed. | Cancer | Water | Fruitful | 4th | |
| 9 Thu. | Cancer | Water | Fruitful | 4th | |
| 10 Fri. 7:06 am | Leo | Fire | Barren | 4th | |
| 11 Sat. | Leo | Fire | Barren | 4th | |
| 12 Sun. 5:16 pm | Virgo | Earth | Barren | 4th | |
| 13 Mon. | Virgo | Earth | Barren | 4th | |
| 14 Tue. | Virgo | Earth | Barren | New | 10:29 am |
| 15 Wed. 12:54 am | Libra | Air | Semi-fruitful | 1st | |
| 16 Thu. | Libra | Air | Semi-fruitful | 1st | |
| 17 Fri. 6:25 am | Scorpio | Water | Fruitful | 1st | |
| 18 Sat. | Scorpio | Water | Fruitful | 1st | |
| 19 Sun. 10:30 am | Sagittarius | Fire | Barren | 1st | |
| 20 Mon. | Sagittarius | Fire | Barren | 1st | |
| 21 Tue. 1:35 pm | Capricorn | Earth | Semi-fruitful | 2nd | 11:54 am |
| 22 Wed. | Capricorn | Earth | Semi-fruitful | 2nd | |
| 23 Thu. 4:10 pm | Aquarius | Air | Barren | 2nd | |
| 24 Fri. | Aquarius | Air | Barren | 2nd | |
| 25 Sat. 6:55 pm | Pisces | Water | Fruitful | 2nd | |
| 26 Sun. | Pisces | Water | Fruitful | 2nd | |
| 27 Mon. 10:57 pm | Aries | Fire | Barren | 2nd | |
| 28 Tue. | Aries | Fire | Barren | Full | 9:09 am |
| 29 Wed. | Aries | Fire | Barren | 3rd | |
| 30 Thu. 5:24 am | Taurus | Earth | Semi-fruitful | 3rd | |

**October Moon Table**

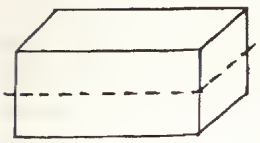
| Date | Sign | Element | Nature | Phase | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Fri. | Taurus | Earth | Semi-fruitful | 3rd | |
| 2 Sat. 2:55 pm | Gemini | Air | Barren | 3rd | |
| 3 Sun. | Gemini | Air | Barren | 3rd | |
| 4 Mon. | Gemini | Air | Barren | 3rd | |
| 5 Tue. 2:54 am | Cancer | Water | Fruitful | 3rd | |
| 6 Wed. | Cancer | Water | Fruitful | 4th | 6:12 am |
| 7 Thu. 3:23 pm | Leo | Fire | Barren | 4th | |
| 8 Fri. | Leo | Fire | Barren | 4th | |
| 9 Sat. | Leo | Fire | Barren | 4th | |
| 10 Sun. 2:00 am | Virgo | Earth | Barren | 4th | |
| 11 Mon. | Virgo | Earth | Barren | 4th | |
| 12 Tue. 9:32 am | Libra | Air | Semi-fruitful | 4th | |
| 13 Wed. | Libra | Air | Semi-fruitful | New | 10:48 pm |
| 14 Thu. 2:10 pm | Scorpio | Water | Fruitful | 1st | |
| 15 Fri. | Scorpio | Water | Fruitful | 1st | |
| 16 Sat. 4:58 pm | Sagittarius | Fire | Barren | 1st | |
| 17 Sun. | Sagittarius | Fire | Barren | 1st | |
| 18 Mon. 7:07 pm | Capricorn | Earth | Semi-fruitful | 1st | |
| 19 Tue. | Capricorn | Earth | Semi-fruitful | 1st | |
| 20 Wed. 9:38 pm | Aquarius | Air | Barren | 2nd | 5:59 pm |
| 21 Thu. | Aquarius | Air | Barren | 2nd | |
| 22 Fri. | Aquarius | Air | Barren | 2nd | |
| 23 Sat. 1:13 am | Pisces | Water | Fruitful | 2nd | |
| 24 Sun. | Pisces | Water | Fruitful | 2nd | |
| 25 Mon. 6:24 am | Aries | Fire | Barren | 2nd | |
| 26 Tue. | Aries | Fire | Barren | 2nd | |
| 27 Wed. 1:37 pm | Taurus | Earth | Semi-fruitful | Full | 11:07 pm |
| 28 Thu. | Taurus | Earth | Semi-fruitful | 3rd | |
| 29 Fri. 11:11 pm | Gemini | Air | Barren | 3rd | |
| 30 Sat. | Gemini | Air | Barren | 3rd | |
| 31 Sun. | Gemini | Air | Barren | 3rd | |

*Reprinted with permission from Llewellyn's 2004 Moon Sign Book, published by Llewellyn Publications, ISBN 0-7387-0124-6*

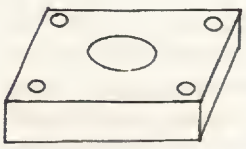
# IDEAS FOR TRANSPORTING SHOW PLANTS

by Sue Gardner

Sometimes transporting plants to a show or meeting seems a difficult job. If you collect suitable containers over time, you will always be able to select one to do the job well. An easy way to obtain cardboard trays is to select a medium to large size box, tape it closed, then cut it through as shown in the following diagram.



You will then have two trays to use. If you pack scrunched up plastic bags and place them around and between plants, they will make suitable carriers. Another way to use the halved box is to turn it upside down and cut a circular hole in the middle which will hold a pot firmly. This is shown in the following diagram.

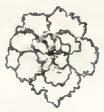


You usually can cut smaller holes in the corner of the box to transport minis.

Another idea for transporting your plants is one used by Sheila and Bernie Walton, members of our club. If you eat breakfast cereal, save the boxes and cut along two lines shaped like a cross as shown below.

Place the pot into the center of the cuts in the box. The boxes can be arranged in the trunk of your car.

From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia



# Container Gardens

by Delores Gibbs

1. Read your schedule: What are we trying to depict? Is it a mountain scene, a beach scene, or even the Grand Canyon? If it states a river, be sure you have one.
2. Read your schedule again: What size should it be? If it states not to exceed 20 inches, be sure it does not extend beyond that in any direction. If an exhibit is to be viewed from several sides, it should be stated in the schedule.
3. Clean your container. If it is a terrarium, make sure the glass is sparkling clean. Limeaway works well; so does vinegar. Dish gardens and natural containers also need to be clean. A terrarium must have a cover.
4. Have your sphagnum moss or potting soil damp. Use charcoal in the bottom to keep the soil sweet. Remember, in a finished container garden, no perlite should be seen.
5. If a waterfall or river is indicated in the schedule, these can be made with melted paraffin. If you do not want it to be white, add just a bit of blue or gray crayon to the melting paraffin. A glue gun can also be used.
6. Place rocks or driftwood in your container garden with your river or waterfall. Then add plants, starting with your tree, especially if it is a dish garden or natural planting. Norfolk Pines go well with a mountain scene. Palms go with a seashore scene. If it is a tropical terrarium, ferns look great. Again, 40 points are for landscape plan.
7. Have different heights in your container garden. Make your tree seem taller by raising it in your potting soil or sphagnum moss. Our handbook states that 20 points are for suitability of material. Plant should be compatible when growing in the same cultural environments; therefore, African violets would not be compatible with cacti.
8. Culture perfection is 10 points. Plants should be well grown and free of pests and diseases. African violets should have a reasonable amount of blossoms.
9. The relationship to container is 10 points. Consideration must be given to the size and amount of planted material in proportion to the container. Use a combination of plants that go well together. There should be a contrast of textures, size, color, and height to add interest. African violets need a reasonable amount of blooms. (Remember, the purpose of having a class for container gardens in shows is to promote the African violet and another way to show the public how violets can be used.)
10. If using accessories, keep them small and in keeping with what it is that you are trying to interpret. I like to have the accessory facing toward the African violet.
11. Have two 3 x 5 cards with your container garden. On one have the names of all the plants used. On the other give an explanation of what you are trying to interpret. It helps the judges understand what you have done.
12. Please yourself. If we receive a blue ribbon, it is an added bonus. Nothing can take away from the fun and excitement of accepting the challenge to create a container garden.

From the Lone Star AV Council Newsletter, Texas

# Foliar Feeding

by Lorrie Maher

We feed our plants by dissolving fertilizer in water. When we use this solution during top or bottom watering, wicking, or the Texas method, we are feeding the root system. Another method of watering and fertilizing is Foliar Feeding. This process of feeding by absorption of nutrients by plant leaf, stem (and branch) is known as "non-root feeding" and was in use in Russia as early as 1890. In 1914, California scientists working on the control of insects and diseases found that if certain fertilizers were applied to dormant trees and to foliage, there was an immediate improvement in growth. Early in the 20th Century, Thomas P. Reilly experimented with high analysis completely soluble plant foods which were safely applied as foliage sprays. Giving plants food through the leaves duplicates nature which feeds nitrogen to outside plants when it rains. Gesneriads, including African violet plants, can also be fed by this method.

**Why use Foliar Feeding?**

- Foliar Feeding is a powerful stimulant to plant growth.
- Foliar Feeding helps counteract PH problems or lock-up.
- Foliar Feeding will bypass the root system and provide first-aid to wilted or damaged plants without danger of root or crown rot.
- When variegated foliage plants have too much variegation, that is, there is very little green to provide chlorophyll, foliar feeding with fish emulsion will provide the nitrogen to pale leaves which will then begin to green up. The desired appearance should be achieved in a week or two without getting too much green. It is possible to control the nitrogen uptake using this process more accurately than by root feeding over a considerably longer time.
- Foliar Feeding helps the development of robust plantlets on rooted leaves. It is recommended that 1/4 of the mother leaf be cut off when the baby plants are first seen, as the nutrients introduced by foliar feeding will then direct the strength to the plantlets rather than into growing a large leaf.
- Foliar Feeding can do wonders for small seedlings and newly divided or small potted plants, as they do not have well developed root systems and are unable to take advantage of root feeding. Leaves become a healthy green and grow much faster.
- When first disbudding a plant in preparation for a show, Foliar Feeding allows the introduction of higher nitrogen which promotes strong and large leaves.
- Foliar Feeding helps prevent the lower leaves of a plant from yellowing and deteriorating. Actively growing plants sometimes need more nitrogen than the roots can supply, so the pant draws the nitrogen from the outside leaves to give it to the younger leaves.
- When you stop disbudding, a fertilizer with a higher phosphorus (middle number) level can be used in Foliar Feeding to help bud formation.
- Foliar Feeding increases the number of bloom clusters and the size and number of blossoms.

**How to Foliar Feed**

1. Use hot water in a pressure mister (they are available quite cheaply from supermarkets and discount hardware stores).
2. Use 1/8 concentration of soluble fertilizer. A suggested method is to dissolve 1/4 teaspoon in about a 1 quart container and then use 1/4 cup of this solution added to 1-3/4 cups of very hot water in the mister.
3. Spray a fine gossamer-like mist with the sprayer held (12 - 18 inches) above the plants. By the time the spray mist reaches the plant, it will have cooled sufficiently to a comfortable temperature and the frosty effect will dry in 10 to 15 minutes. If the spray solution is much cooler than the leaf temperature, spotting of the leaves will occur. Wet plants should not be placed in strong sunlight. However, fluorescent lights won't cause the leaves to spot.
4. Lightly mist each plant. Stop before it runs to the edge of the leaf to avoid margining; if you wet the leaves until the spray solution drips off, some of the nutrients collect on the leaf edges and tips, thus causing a light colored edge to develop around the leaf. If any droplets form on the leaves, blot with a tissue to prevent spotting from occurring.
5. Feed when temperatures are rising (morning) with time for plants to dry. (Avoid Foliar Feeding when the humidity is high as moisture can collect in the crowns of the plants and cause marked leaves.) Foliar Feeding will increase the humidity around your plants.

**What fertilizer should be used for Foliar Feeding?**

A soluble fertilizer must be used. As with root feeding, select the fertilizer for the desired results, that is, one with high nitrogen such as fish emulsion for foliage growth and root development and one with high phosphorus for bloom promotion. Vary or alternate the fertilizer nutrients used in Foliar Feeding the same way you would in a root feeding program. You can also add an insecticide or fungicide to your foliar spray, thus achieving two purposes in one go. Avoid wetting blossoms because some insecticides can cause discoloration in the blossoms. Even plain hot water foliar spray will sometimes discolor the wide open blooms on certain varieties but does not affect buds.

**How often should you Foliar Feed?**

It is recommended that you Foliar Feed once or twice a week and mist with hot water on other days. Caution: Take care in summer as the activity of soil bacteria can cause nitrogen burn.

**Does Foliar Feeding replace Root feeding methods?**

Foliar Feeding is only a supplement to root feeding and not a substitute. However, Foliar Feeding is over 9 times as effective as root feeding, and thus a word of caution is in order. If you Foliar Feed in addition to a heavy fertilizer program, you might overfeed your plants. This would show up as brittle, tight centers or brown edges on the leaves from fertilizer burn. Overfeeding with nitrogen could cause lack of blossoming and loss of variegation in the leaves. Feed when plants are growing well or are young, when plants are mature and new growth is minimal, foliar feed less often.

**For your consideration**

In foliar feeding, plants take up 95% of the nutrients through the leaves and nutritional elements move through the leaves at the rate of 1 cm in 2 minutes, while during root feeding, plants only take up 10% of nutrients.

**Note:** Foliar Feeding is beneficial for all Gesneriads; I use Foliar Feeding with my micro-mini sinningias and episcias with spectacular results.

**Editor's Note:** In the preparation of this article, the author has used material published in the African Violet Magazine March 1983, May 1986, the Hunter Valley African Violet Society Newsletter 1992, and the Early Morn A. V. Group Newsletter 1993 as references.

*From the Newsletter of the AVS of QLD, Inc.*

# AVSA's 2005 Cincinnati Show - African Violets Reign in the Queen City

## Specific Variety Awards - Amateur Horticulture

Best 'Ozark' *Sinningia* (in the Sinningia class)
Award: $35
Donor: Dave's Violets (MO)

Best 'Ness' Candy Pink' - in memory of Don Ness
Award: $15
Donor: AVS of Minnesota (MN)

Best 'Blue Tail Fly'
Award: $20
Donor: Terri Morgan (AZ)

Best 'Cutie' (7141)
Award: $20
Donor: Rocky Mountain AV Council (CO)

Best 'The King' (Maas)
Award: $25
Donor: Janet Riemer (NJ)

Best 'ACA's Red Ember'
Award: $25
Donor: Beverley Williams (ON, Canada)

Best 'Dean's Rosalie'
Award: $25
Donor: Shirley's House of Violets (TX)

Best 'Emilie Savage'
Award: $25
Donor: Jim & Linda Owens (OH)

Best 'Frozen in Time'
Award: $25
Donor: Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/ Paul Sorano (NY)

Best 'Maas' Mark'
Award: $25
Donor: Hattie Baggett (AZ)

Best 'Mickey Mouse'
Award: $25
Donor: Hans & Everdina Inpijn (CA)

Best 'Nancy Hayes' (trailer)
Award: $25
Donor: Nancy Hayes (CT)

Best 'Ness' Crinkle Blue'
Award: $25
Donor: Lakes Area Violet Growers (MN)

Best 'Rebel's Splatter Kake'
Award: $25
Donor: Ruth Bann (MN)

Best 'Tulsa Boy'
Award: $25
Donor: AVS of Greater Tulsa (OK)

Best 'Vintage Wine'
Award: $25
Donor: Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/ Paul Sorano (NY)

Best 'Ness' Cranberry Swirl'
Award: $30
Donor: AVS of Minnesota (MN)

Best 'Everdina'
Award: $45
Donor: Hans & Everdina Inpijn (CA)

Best 'Precious Pink'
Award: $50
Donor: Ray & Hortense Pittman (TX)

Best 'Irish Flirt'
Award: $50 with Rosette
Donor: Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/ Paul Sorano (NY)

Best 'Arizona Heat'
Award: $50
Donor: Tucson AVS (AZ)

Best 'Lillian Jarrett' Variegated (AVSA #2902)
Award: $75
Donor: Anne Tinari (PA) - in memory of Frank Tinari

Best 'Louisiana Lagniappe'
Award: $100
Donor: The Baton Rouge Convention group - Elmer Godeny (LA)

Best 'Concord'
Award: $100
Donor: Kazuo Horikoshi (Tokyo, Japan)

Best 'The Alps'
Award: $100
Donor: Kazuo Horikoshi (Tokyo, Japan)

What a diverse list! How many of these plants do you have? Some are "old favorites", and some are new introductions. Thankfully, most of the African violets are available through our commercial vendors. There is still plenty of time before the show. Let's try to have each variety represented!

Have you thought about donating an award? It would be nice to add your name and/or your affiliate's name to the contributor list. Deadlines are: October 15, 2004 to be included in the January AVM Awards List, and February 15, 2005 to be included in the convention booklet. (Please note that Specific Variety Awards are now closed for 2005.) Check out the Awards list on our Web site: AVSA.org. Click on National Convention and go to the Awards section. It is updated on a weekly basis.

Send Award contributions (payable in U.S. funds) to:
**Sue Hoffmann**, AVSA Awards Chairman
2809 Forest Hills Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23454
susan.hoffmann@juno.com
757-463-5383

# PROPAGATION

**by Keith Lind**
**Australia**

About eighteen years ago when I joined the African Violet Association of Australia, I wrote an article for our magazine in which I made a bold statement that in spite of all that has been done regarding the growing of African violets, I hoped to be able to grow them in a way not done before. Subsequently, at least one member informed me that no matter what you came up with, it has all been done before. Undaunted, I still continue to experiment to this day, and over the years have had a lot of fun. I believe that in at least one area, I have come up with something that may be different.

A few years ago, I read an article which stated that all gesneriads can be grown from a leaf. We all know that this is the most popular way to propagate African violets, but most of the other gesneriads are propagated by cuttings, tubers, rhizomes, tip cuttings, etc.

I decided to test the theory and planted leaves of *Columnea, Nematanthus, Streptocarpella*, *Codontanthus,* and *Achimenes*. I had only limited success with these plants and only managed to grow a very few plantlets which actually took a very long time to start growing. I also planted mini *Sinningia* leaves and thought that this was successful as the leaves produced tubers in one season. However, when these tubers were re-planted, none of them produced plantlets as they all seemed to be blind (in other words they had no eyes for growth).

I decided not to go on with these experiments as it appeared to me to be a lost cause.

However, a couple of years ago, I decided to try again but instead of simply taking a leaf with a petiole, I took the leaf, the petiole, and a small piece of the main stem. Most varieties produce leaves on the stem opposite one another, so it was necessary to discard the leaf opposite the one I selected. This left me with a leaf, a petiole and a small piece of the main stem actually forming a heel. The columneas, *Nematanthus*, codonanthes, and *Streptocarpella* all produced plantlets in quite a short time, and I was delighted with the result. It is possible to obtain many more plants from the one cutting, depending on the length of that cutting and how many leaves on it in the first place.

I used the same method with mini sinningias, taking a stem and discarding one of the opposing leaves. The stem was then cut off immediately above and below the remaining leaf, again giving me a leaf, a short petiole, and a heel. I was surprised and delighted to see one, and sometimes more, shoots appear quite quickly after planting. By starting these pieces off in water, it was noted some cuttings produced the beginnings of a plantlet within two or three weeks when they were planted in potting mix and went on to produce nice plants from well-developed tubers. When these plants died off in the winter-time, the tubers were stored till spring when they were replanted, and all produced fresh, strong plants. My problem now is, I have far too many mini sinningias.

No, I haven't neglected saintpaulias. I have experimented with them equally as much as with the other gesneriads and believe I have been successful in producing a high percentage of true to variety plantlets from most of the more difficult varieties. As is well known, side shoots from plants such as chimeras, fantasies, and some other varieties that do not reproduce true to variety from leaves will mostly produce plants true to variety. However, for some reason, many plants we would like to produce side shoots are reluctant to do so.

I began to wonder why side shoots will produce true to variety plants and leaf cuttings don't. I thought maybe it is because the side shoots grow directly from stem tissue whereas leaf cuttings contain no stem tissue. I selected a number of plants - 'Yasuyo' (chimera), 'Kiwi Dazzler' (chimera), 'Chiffon Print' (a Fredette fantasy) - and dissected them in such a way that each leaf was attached to a piece of stem tissue. Each of these leaves with some tissue attached were planted in potting mix and treated similarly to other leaf cuttings. Plantlets appeared in six to eight weeks and were potted on when large enough to handle. Nearly all the cuttings produced at least one and sometimes several plants which grew directly from the piece of stem tissue attached to the base of the leaves. In due course, a very high percentage of these plants produced flowers exactly like the mother plants.

I have repeated this exercise several times with the same results. Using this method, it is possible to produce plantlets from the oldest leaves right through to leaves quite close to the crown. A very high number of plantlets can be produced in this way, thus ending the frustration of waiting for a special plant to produce side shoots.

Perhaps the results of my experiments are not as important or as interesting as I think they are, but having grown saintpaulias for eighteen years, I have not heard or read that this method could be used. I now have far too many chimeras and fantasies, but in time will be able to sell them at our show or some of our promotions. It is time for me to stop experimenting.

*From the Journal of the*
*Saintpaulia & Houseplant Society, England*

# ARE YOU CONSIDERING ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS?

by Sheila Walton

Lights for African violets can assist with things staying under control. This would be one of the main reasons for growers to invest in a light stand. Control of the length and intensity of light (with practice) will enable the grower to produce plants at their peak condition when required. Mostly we would think of entering them for a show, but it could also be that you want a flowering plant for a special occasion such as a birthday/anniversary present or to decorate tables for a special dinner party. The following tips should help.

- Plants will need to adjust to their new conditions, so introduce them to a few hours of light at a time; increase over a number of weeks.
- Tops of plants need to be about ten to twelve inches from light tubes.
- Miniatures and semi-miniatures may need to be closer - four to eight inches.
- Lights will need to be on 10-14 hours a day.
- Keep tubes clean by wiping with a damp cloth when tubes are cold.
- New tubes are stronger in intensity of light, so try not to change all tubes at the same time.
- Too much light: plants will grow tight centers. Too little light: leaves will reach up.
- Plants will use more water than when growing in natural light, due to the changed growing conditions plants will grow quicker. They will also need re-potting more regularly.
- Watch out for powdery mildew - don't crowd plants.
- Plants on the extremes of the shelves will need rotating to prevent 'leaning' towards the light.
- Lower shelves are usually cooler, often better for variegated plants.
- A timer can make life easier for turning lights on and off.

From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia

# Attention: ALL AVSA MEMBERS

The list of AVSA Judges, Commercial Members, and Affiliated Clubs will be listed on the AVSA web site, <www.avsa.org>. It will be available for AVSA members **only**. You will need a password to download the list from the site. Email the office at <avsa@earthlink.net> for the password. **We WILL NOT give this password out over the phone. Do not call the office to obtain it. You must email us for the password.**

The list will also be available in a hard copy from the AVSA office for those without access to the Internet. Please send your request for the list along with one U.S. dollar to cover the cost to AVSA, 2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702.

# TRIMMING *STREPTOCARPUS* LEAVES

by Gwen Goodship

Those of us who grow *Streptocarpus* in the hope that they will grace the show table dread the leaf tips going brown. It always seems to happen just before a show! In the past, I have always removed the whole leaf, but now I have found that trimming the leaf, of the browning is permissable by the African Violet Society of America and AGGS for their shows, and I was shown how to trim a leaf.

Do not make the mistake of cutting the leaf tip straight across - this makes it obvious there was something wrong with it. Using fine dress-making pinking shears, the shape of the leaf edge is followed round from about two inches below the brown tip. The shears give a slightly serrated edge, making it less noticeable that part the original leaf edge has been removed. Do not do this a long time before the show, just in case the cut edge browns again: do it either the day before or even on the day of the show.

Dress-making pinking shears can make an obvious serrated edge, but I was told of and have obtained a much finer edge cutter that is intended for paper cutting. Now, hopefully, fuller *Streptocarpus* plants will be put onto the show tables.

If you are plagued with browned tips on *Streptocarpus*, look out for these scissor-shaped paper cutters. You will be surprised how good the leaves look after trimming with these cutters.

*From the Journal of the Saintpaulia & Houseplant Society, England*

# WHAT IS A TRAILER?

by Sue Gardner

A standard plant that has been neglected and has produced sideshoots is not a trailer! Rather, trailers were originally produced from naturally trailing *Saintpaulia* species. Lyndon Lyon crossed *S.* grotei with two miniatures to eventually produce the first free blooming trailing African violets. Over time, many beautiful trailers have been developed, and growers have discovered the best way to care for these plants.

Trailers can be standard, semi-miniature or miniature. These distinctions depend on leaf size - not on the overall size of the plant. Standard plants have a leaf approximately the size of a dessert spoon, semiminiatures the size of a teaspoon, and miniatures the size of the nail on your little finger. All can grow to fill a large pot.

**WHAT DOES A GOOD TRAILER LOOK LIKE?**

A fine African violet trailer will ideally have at least three trailing branches coming from a central stem. It should fill the pot. It should have a balanced shape, not growing in a lopsided fashion. Blooms should be evenly distributed around the plant on each of the main trailing branches. There should be no bare stems or bare areas of potting mix. There should be no leaves with long petioles protruding outside the line of the foliage. Such leaves are often old and yellowish. Variegated trailers should have uniform variegation. This means that any branch which produces solid green leaves should be removed.

**HOW DO WE CARE FOR TRAILERS?**

Trailers need porous potting mix - use normal African violet potting mix. They need water and fertilizer in the same way as other standard plants. Some growers supply a little more fertilizer to large trailers as they consider them heavy feeders.

Light is a requirement for good growth, especially in the early stages. Good light is also needed to produce abundant flowers. Some of the older varieties grow well with a little less light. Many grow well in natural light.

Grooming is a necessity to keep trailers compact and healthy. It is a good idea to pinch the centers out of the trailing branches when they reach about 3 inches in length in order to promote fuller growth and reduce the possibility of bare stems. Any branch producing leaves of a different size to the rest of the plant should be removed.

**REPOTTING**

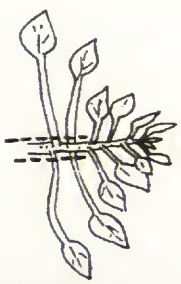
Trailers love shallow pots and need re-potting into larger containers periodically to maintain growth and health. After striking a cutting of a trailer, it is best to pinch out the two center leaves to promote new growth. Re-pot when the plant fills its container. A large mature trailer can reach a diameter of more than 12 inches.

When re-potting larger trailers, grooming and pruning are carried out. The following directions may prove useful as a guide.

1. Remove all flowers.
2. Remove marked and dead leaves.
3. Remove leaves with long petioles as follows:

Look at the diagram below. This is the front view of one growing point of a trailer. The seven outside leaves have long petioles and should be removed.

If you look at the next diagram, you will see how to remove these leaves leaving a slight stub. This means you do not damage the tiny side-shoot in the leaf axil, allowing it to grow.



When the new shoots grow from these axils, a more bushy plant develops. Flowers grow from the axils of leaves nearest the growing tip of each crown on your trailer. So when more side-shoots develop into crowns, you will have more flowers on your plant.

4. Look at your trailer from above. Imagine leaves are removed so that stems are visible. If any crown has a longer stem than the others, causing the plant to look lopsided, cut the tip off to make it the same length as the other main stems. This will make the plant more balanced and encourage the short newer crowns to grow.

5. Remove plant carefully from the pot. Select a shallow bowl a size larger than before. Trailers seem to prefer wide shallow bowls. Carefully remove as much old potting mix without damaging the roots. As you have not cut the stems of the plant too severely, it needs its entire root system to support it and allow it to grow more quickly. So don't trim the roots.

After placing a new wick in the bowl and writing the plant name on the side, place the plant in the center. Fill potting mix around the plant but do not cover the stems. Water sparingly with tepid water and place on reservoir. Put the plant in a well lit position and watch it grow!

**PROPAGATING TRAILERS**

Trailers can be propagated in two ways - by a crown cutting and by a leaf cutting.

**Crown Cutting** - When a trailer is groomed and repotted, you may cut the end of a trailing stem off and create a crown cutting. To prepare the cutting for planting, remove all but the last 4 or 5 leaves, clean the stem, and cut it so that it is about 3/4 inch long. You may wish to paint the bare stem with rooting hormone. To plant the crown cutting, fill a small pot with potting mix and place the cutting in the pot so that the lower leaves are just slightly above the level of the mix. Water, then drain the pot well. Place in a plastic bag. You will find that roots grow very quickly, producing a new trailer which should progress well.

**Leaf Cutting** - To prepare a leaf cutting, cut the petiole on an angle so that the remaining petiole is 3/4 inch long. To plant the leaf, place it in the pot so that the leaf blade is slightly above the level of the mix. It is best not to use rooting hormone on a leaf cutting. Leaves will produce shoots more slowly if rooting hormone is used. Water the pot and drain well - overnight if necessary. Put the pot in a plastic bag and place in a warm light place. Wait several weeks, and you will have new trailers!

*From the Newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia*

# What Color is Pink?

by Dr. Jeff Smith

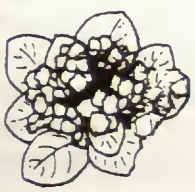
Pink is not a combination of red and white. There isn't a "white" pigment in African violet flowers. White is an absence of any pigment to absorb the colors in sunlight. When no colors are absorbed, all the wave lengths of light are reflected and we see the "color" as "white".

African violets do have a separate pigment for pink. There are also separate pigments for red, blue, coral pink, coral red, coral blue, yellow, and green. Some of the flower colors such as lavender are blends of pink and blue together. Some of the red-violet flowers are blends of red and blue. There is also a co-pigment chemical that acts as a "bluing" agent. When present, the flowers take on a blue overcast. However, the co-pigment doesn't have much of an effect on pink flowers (which might explain why they are easier to describe). The most noticeable color change when the co-pigment is present is seen in the coral reds. If the co-pigment is present, the coral red color becomes a much darker muddy coral red color. When the co-pigment is absent, the coral red colors are much brighter and closer to a true red.

Some of the other shades in color come from the amount of pigment present. You can get light, medium, and dark in all of the colors depending on the amount of pigment present.

Be careful about what you describe as "pink". For example, 'Precious Pink' was found by pigment analysis to actually be a diluted red pigment flower. What you think you see isn't necessarily what is actually present.

From a discussion of the *AV Connection* online group



# ROOT KNOT NEMATODES

by Nancy Robitaille

In more than twenty years of growing African violets, I have never personally had or seen a case of root-knot nematodes. Possibly, my diagnosis of sickly looking plants was incorrect, or maybe they were just thrown away without my knowing exactly what ailed them.

Recently, someone on one of the popular African violet forums mentioned seeing a worm-like creature in a saucer after watering her plant. Diagnoses over the internet are scant, to say the least. It could have been a worm introduced by the water from a well or other. This began my research on the subject of root-knot nematodes.

Root-knot nematodes are obligate endoparasites that spend most of their life-cycles within the confines of their hosts' roots. Their Latin names are nematode-meloedogyne, spp.

This pest is not an insect, since we describe insects as having six legs. The form of this pest is worm-like and microscopic.

**HOW DO THEY AFFECT OUR PLANTS?**

Nematodes infect roots causing a cancer-like growth on the roots. These galls prevent normal taking up of nutrients and water. Nematodes appear on most plant species, indoor plants, ornamental garden plants, and vegetables.

**SYMPTOMS OF YOUR AFRICAN VIOLET**

1. Plant appears to be wilted.
2. Plant is stunted and shows slow growth if any at all.
3. Plant shows chlorotic or pale green or yellowish leaves.
4. Loss of leaves.
5. Flowering stops

Infected roots swell at the point of infection and form knots or galls. These infected roots are retarded in growth, and fine feeder roots necessary for the uptake of water and nutrients are lacking. Roots may often rot.

Root-knot nematodes are easy to recognize by the symptoms the plant shows: Swollen knots formed where nematodes feed. These galls vary in size and shape, and they have firm tissue.

**WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?**

Root-knot nematodes are very small, .25 mm to 3 mm. They are colorless, almost invisible. They feed on plant juices by piercing cells with their needle-like stylets. This makes it easier for other pathogens and pests to get into the roots. There are many kinds of nematodes which damage plant roots, but root-knot nematodes cause the most damage to our plants.

**LIFE CYCLE OF NEMATODES**

Male nematodes are vermiform and are rare in root-knot nematodes since they are not required for reproduction.

The female begins laying eggs about twenty or so days after penetration of the host plant. The average female will lay about thirty eggs a day for two weeks or about 400 eggs during her life span. The average life cycle is 25 days. Populations will build up rapidly when there are favorable environmental conditions.

The eggs are usually shorter than .065 mm. A first-stage juvenile develops then molts while still in the egg to become a second-stage juvenile, which hatches from the egg. It finds a site to feed on the fresh root tissues and molts three more times to reach adulthood. Eggs are deposited in the soil or plant tissue where the nematode lives, or they accumulate in a gelatinous mass attached to the female.

The infectious stage of nematodes is the second stage larvae. The larvae in its second stage will penetrate the plant at or near the root tip and become sedentary. When an enzyme is released, the plant cells surrounding the head region begin to enlarge and form giant cells which serve as a source of nourishment for the parasite. The female nematodes swell until they become pear-shaped or oval. During this time, the nematode undergoes two more molts.

Because plant-parasitic nematodes are so small, most diagnoses must be done by recognizing the symptoms as shown by the African violet or by laboratory analysis of soil or plant cells and roots to make it possible to see and to identify.

Some nematodes live on roots or in the soil around roots as well as on the surface of the root ball. They feed only in cells they can reach from the outside of the root. These ecloparasites do not penetrate into the root. Endoparasites move into root tissue, feeding on the cells boroughing through them. When they reach specific cells, they will feed there for the rest of their lives.

**BIOLOGICAL CONTROL**

In gardens, crops can be effectively managed without using pesticides against these pests simply by rotation of crops. The crops can be rotated with marigolds.

The roots of marigolds (Tagetes erecta or Tagetes patula) contain chemicals that kill nematodes. Benefits are not realized, however, until the following year for the gardener.

Not all marigolds are effective against Nematodes. These are recommended: Tagetes "Crackerjack", "Flor de Muerto," or Tagetes patula "Bonita mixed", "Gypsy Sunshine", "Scarlet Sophia", "Single Gold" and "Tangerine."

It seems nematodes are attracted to the roots of living marigolds. When the nematodes attack, the marigold roots release ozone, and the ozone kills the tiny pests.

Since these marigolds are effective outside, we should experiment and grow these annual flowering plants under the lights next to our plants. Certainly, no harm can be done. Of course, in the garden, it is the roots of the annual plant which kills the nematodes so that would mean we would have to plant one marigold in the same pot with each African violet. Sometimes experiments work out; sometimes they don't!

Another biological control is Mycorrhizal which is a beneficial fungus that attaches itself to the roots of the plant in a protective manner. Any threatening root-knot nematodes are enveloped and consumed.

Biological control also includes an antagonistic fungus Verticillium chlamydosporium.

Soil temperatures below 60 F are unlikely to have nematodes. That may help the gardener, but it does not help us in our plant rooms.

Ground-up seafood shells contain a material called chitin which promotes the growth of a certain fungi and bacteria in the soil. These microbes, in turn, feed on the nematodes.

Turn up the heat! Nematode eggs and worms are killed in just ten minutes at 120 F. Eggs and juvenile populations decline by up to 70-90 percent during the winter outside. That does not help our situation since our plants cannot take the winter temperatures either.

Common annual vinca was tested in India, and it was found to kill practically all nematodes in the soil of the test gardens.

A home remedy for this pest is to add a teaspoon of sugar to your plant's soil.

It seems someone should try marigold roots mixed with vinca and a little bit of sugar to discover a control for these dreaded pests.

There are some nematicides which are effective as a drench or used in granular form. I was not able to find any chemicals recommended as a cure for nematode.

**WHAT DO THE AUTHORS SAY ABOUT NEMATODE?**

Helen Van Pelt Wilson in "The Complete Book of African Violets," says:

"Symptoms: Loss of vigor and general debility in a plant may be ascribed to starvation, over- or under- watering, too much or too little light, or the wrong fertilizer. However, if foliage loses its good green color, becomes pale and dull, and outer leaves droop, if young leaves emerge already damaged and sustain the injury through life, if flowers are fewer and those borne have a lack-luster look, if there has been a procession of other ills – mealy bug, black flies, springtails, or some such – if there has been violent reaction to selenium, (a systemic) if the low center or "plant stalk" feels soft and the plant seems "rocky" in the pot, if several or all of these conditions occur, you may as well prepare yourself for the worst and turn the sufferer out of the pot so that you can examine roots. Small pulpy enlargements, swellings to two or three times normal diameters (rather than knots), these, and a galled, spongy condition of the stalk at the soil line, or an "enlarged, rough, and calloused" stem (signs of resistance to trouble) fill in but one picture.

"Diagnosis: Root-nematode is indicated. This is the hated fifth columnist of the saintpaulia underworld. The fine, threadlike, parasitic worms destroy indirectly for they interfere with the life process by which a plant supports itself. The damage they do often appears to be root-rot, crown rot or galled stems. But root-nematode attack is so difficult to diagnose, plants are often treated for other ills, and many eventually die.

"The damaging process is mostly done by females migrating through the soil until a rootlet is reached. Tissue is pierced and entry made into the very center..."

She continues, and the book was published in 1951: "To date there is no cure. Parathion offers possibilities which may be realized in the future, but not now. Even cutting off the good upper portions of the plants that have suffered from nematodes will not save them. They may reroot in water only to succumb later as the nematodes reappear. Infested plants should be thrown away..."

Theodore James, Jr. in his book, *"How to Select and Grow African Violets,"* published in 1983, offers more hope. "Discard badly infested plants. Isolate infested plants that can be revived. Drench plant with a solution of dimethoate. Drench plants again in seven days, then again seven days later. If plant still does not recover and is worth saving, take leaf cuttings that are not in contact with the soil. Use these to propagate new plants that will not have root nematodes. Wash hands thoroughly after handling to avoid infesting healthy plants. Place saucers under individual plants to prevent spreading of nematodes."

Robey in "African Violets, Queens of the Indoor Gardening Kingdom," 1980, recommends if we are not going to dispose of the plant to drench the soil with either nemagon (DD) or mylone. "These chemicals are dangerous to handle, so read the labels and be extremely careful."

As Dr. Charles L. Cole stated, "There is no better insect control on your violets than your own shadow." Prevention is the absolute. Cleanliness in the plant room and pasteurization of soil mix is necessary. Nematodes don't come in on the backs of our dogs or through window screens. They come either from other infected plants – ISOLATE – or through your soil – PASTEURIZE.

# Watering Basics

by Sue Haffner

Suppose you're new to growing African violets. You've had some successes, some failures. Some problems seem to crop up again and again. Could your cultural practices be at fault? What is one of the most problematic issues for beginning growers?

**Watering:**

More African violets are probably killed due to improper watering than by any other cause. (This is true for all potted plants, of course.) Suppose you are not yet "into" wicking, or capillary mats, or any of the other techniques employed by those who have been in the hobby for a while. The question then is: do you water from the bottom or from the top? Either way is acceptable, providing you take the following points into consideration.

**Watering from the top:**

This method leaves water in the saucer under the plant. Don't allow the plant to sit in the water for longer than a half an hour. Be sure to empty the saucer after that. If you have pebbles in the saucer (for humidity), leave only enough water to keep the pebbles wet. The water level should be just below the bottom of the pot. Another point to consider is loss of nutrients. Top watering washes out fertilizer, nitrogen in particular. To compensate for this loss, you must be sure to maintain a regular fertilizing program.

**Watering from the bottom:**

Set the plant in a pan of water and let it sit until the soil in the top of the pot feels moist to the touch. Then remove the pot from the water and let it drain for a few minutes. The plant is then ready to be returned to its growing space. Here you have a problem which is the reverse of the one which results from top watering. Bottom watering pushes the fertilizer salts to the top of the pot. An accumulation of salts can be harmful. To avoid the buildup, you should water from the top at least once per month, letting the water drain through the pot. This will wash the salts back down into the soil. This is also called leaching the soil mass.

**When to water?**

The only honest and correct answer to this question is: when the plant needs it. Give the plant the 'finger test'. Dig about 1/4" down into the topsoil and if it feels dry, give the plant a thorough watering. House temperature, humidity or dry air, amount of leaves on a plant - these all are factors which affect the amount of water a plant needs. You may notice that though plants are growing side by side and are about the same size, one will take up a lot more water than its neighbor.

Do not let a plant dry out so much that the leaves become limp. With luck, the plant may bounce back once or twice, but don't press your luck. If the plant has dried to the point of limp leaves, do not drown it with a big drink. Instead, give it just a bit of water. After several small drinks, it can tolerate a good watering. If a plant is allowed to dry out to the point of wilted leaves, you are creating another problem. African violets have very fine feeder roots which dry out quickly. This sets your plant back, as new feeder roots must grow before your plant can properly take nourishment.

Excessive drying of plants also causes the bottom or oldest leaves to go limp. Your tendency is to give the pot a big drink - but restrain yourself. Note the advice above. A big drink to your dry plant can cause those outer leaves to turn to jelly (I think we've all seen this). If this happens, remove the damaged leaves.

Your violets are quick to tell you when they object to the care they are receiving. Here's a summary of things to remember when watering your plants:

- Water only when the plant needs it.
- Use tepid, room temperature water, not cold water.
- Don't let your violet sit in a pan of water for any length of time. They don't like wet feet.
- Give small amounts of water if a plant has dried out too much.
- Be careful not to get water into the crown of the plant.
- Do not let the sun or a draft hit a plant when the leaves are wet. This can spot the leaves.

From the AFRICAN VIO-LET-TER, Central California AVS

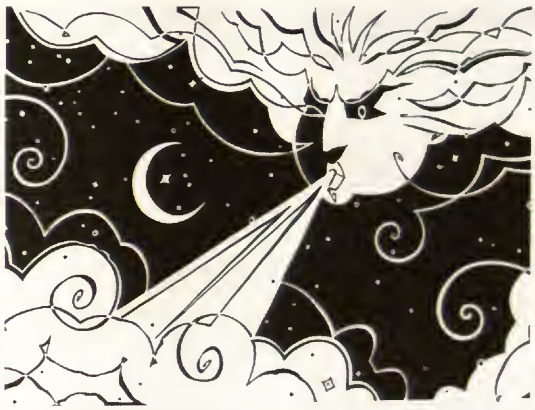
## ATTENTION AFFILIATE SHOW CHAIRS

Effective January 1, 2005, the application fee will change from $5.00 to $7.50 for each set of collection rosettes. All schedules for 2005 shows should include the new fee of $7.50 for each set of collection rosettes requested. Also, please note that AVSA Schedule Approver, **Patricia Sutton**, has a new address: 5341 S. 73rd E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74145.

# WINTER IS COMING!

How can we keep our plants flourishing during the coming winter?

When the temperature falls, a lot of differences occur with African violets. The growth slows, leaves come through very slowly, small plants grow more slowly, larger plants are slower coming into bud. Different varieties react somewhat differently - some grow with leaves more tightly together, as if huddling for warmth; some wrap their leaves down around the sides of the pot; some do not react at all.



In winter flowers can be larger; they can last longer on the plant; colors are much more vivid; plants with a colored edge that disappears in summer heat have a very marked edge.

Plants with variegated foliage are worth noting in winter - in summer the chlorophyll is very strong and a lot of plants lose most, if not all, variegation. In the winter, the variegation returns to the center of the leaves, working its way out and becomes very noticeable. The plant, even without flowers, then becomes a thing of beauty.

To help minimize the bad effects and preserve the good effects of the cold weather, and if you are growing your plants in natural light near a window, there are a couple of things that need to be watched. If your window faces north, the sun is much lower in the sky, and the direct sunlight may now hit your plants. If condensation has built up on your plants during the night, the sunlight may burn the leaves and permanently mark them. Also, this sunlight may be too strong for the plants and bleach the leaves. If your plants are close to the window, they will need to be protected at night as glass gets very cold, and it is suggested that you have a blind or curtain between the glass and the plants at night.

If your plants are in an area that gets extremes of temperature, they may experience problems in growing. Try and keep the temperature reasonably even - that is, keep the room heated or have them cold all the time.

When watering your plants in winter, water with lukewarm water, even if the plant dries out completely and you need to stand the plant in water to moisten the potting mix. Use lukewarm water.

The other thing to remember is to give your plants a bit more empty space around them during winter to prevent mildew and fungus problems caused by lack of circulation.

From *The African Violet*,
publication of the AV Association of Australia, Inc.

# Tips for Propagation

When propagating a *Streptocarpus* from a leaf, do not use the lowest part of the leaf blade. It is from this section of the main vein that the flower stalks grow, and rarely does it produce new plantlets. Therefore, take a section of the leaf one to three inches above this area for better propagation. And if the leaf is long, cut across the blade to make sections about three inches long for potting up. You will surely get enough plantlets from a couple of such sections.

To trim a *Saintpaulia* leaf for propagation, use a clean, sharp knife or a clean razor blade to shorten the leaf stalk to one to two inches long. This length depends on whether the leaf is from a miniature or a standard variety. The cut should be angled at 45 degrees rather than straight across the stalk so that there is a larger cut area from which plantlets can grow.

If a *Saintpaulia* leaf blade is broken entirely away from its stalk, don't worry. You can still get plantlets from it. Just use a clean, sharp knife to cut away a section of the leaf blade on both sides of the main vein. This will make a short 'stalk' to be potted into your mix. To avoid the possibility of rot setting in, dust the cuts with green sulphur dust.

It is better, when propagating houseplants by tip cuttings, to use as short a cutting as possible for rooting. Once rooted, the cutting will begin to lengthen. Then pinch out the growing tip to make the young plant bush. It will then more likely grow into a balanced shape rather than be a spindly, single stem that has to be cut back later on.

*From the journal of the Saintpaulia and Houseplant Society, England*

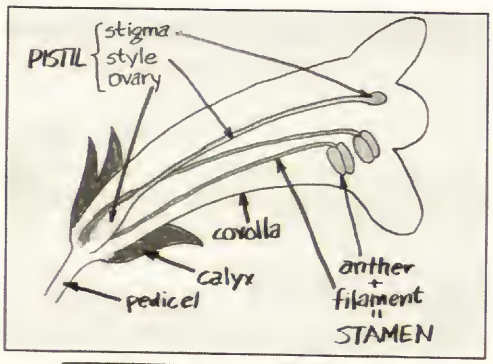
# All About Gesneriad Seeds: Planting, Growing, and Harvesting

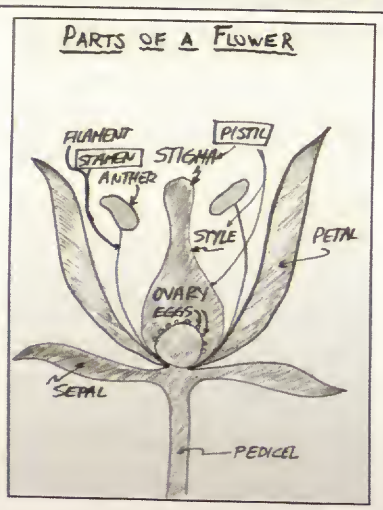
Compiled by David Harris, Springfield, MO, member of the Missouri Valley AVC, from a presentation given by Susan Grose.

(***Editor's Note:*** A helpful glossary of terms follows the article.)

**Why grow Gesneriads from seed?**

- It provides a way to know the plant through its entire life cycle.
- The plant spends its entire life cycle in your growing conditions, not having to go through an acclimation period from someone else's growing situation to yours.
- The sense of accomplishment that comes from growing a large blooming plant all the way from a tiny seed.
- The grower knows exactly what they are getting from species plants.
- Provides an opportunity to obtain gesneriads not readily available otherwise.
- Large variety of seeds are available inexpensively ($1.50 per packet) from the AGGS seed fund. (See AGGS ad on page 63 in this issue).
- Growing from seed does not take up a lot of space initially.
- Provides a good way to share new varieties with friends.
- It's fun!




Pollination occurs in male phase first in Gesneriads, then female phase. There are 2 types of stigmas (bi-lobed and capitate).

**Pollinating and Producing Your Own Seed:**

- Make sure plant is in receptive stage and has sufficient water.
- Make sure when plants are "self hybrids" they are labeled as such. These plants do not come true from seed.
- Only species plants come true from seed, with a very few exceptions.
- Plants should be well-watered after seed pollination as developing seed needs water.
- Use a fine brush, or just tap some blossoms to get the pollen.
- Use pollen from a plant in male phase to pollinate a plant of same species in female phase.

**Signals that pollination is successful:**

- The blossom wilts or falls off earlier than usual.
- Sepals will close around the ovary and then expand as the ovary swells.
- Fruit becomes visible and flower pedicle does not dry up.
- Time to harvest 1 to 6 months, depending on the species.
- Pollen ages yellow to ashy gray (it is not as viable after a week).

*Make sure brushes are clean so they don't make an unintentional hybrid if you are trying to "self pollinate" a species plant. If using a brush, wash it in soapy water or 1% bleach solution and then dip in alcohol and dry between uses.*

**Pollinating materials:**

Fine camel or sable hair brush.
Dissecting needle.
Tags for labeling seed pods upon pollination.
Permanent marking pen, pencil, or ball point.
Small scissors.
Good light source.
Magnifying lens or glasses.
Toothpick (discard after each use).

*Tools must be clean. Use alcohol, soap or 1% bleach solution to prevent spreading disease.*

**Harvesting the Seed:**

- Seeds are produced in capsules and berries. Capsules can be dry or fleshy and can take anywhere from a month to six months to mature. *Don't harvest seed until pods or capsules are ready. Dry capsules must be DRY and their connection to main plant, the pedicle, dry. Make sure it is not green and fleshy.*
- Prepare your materials before harvesting seed. When noticing that capsules may be getting ready to be harvested, prepare materials days in advance so you will be ready.
- If possible, harvest the seed before the dry capsule splits.
- Fold a large paper plate in half and crease, or fold and crease in quarters a 8 1/2" x 11" piece of paper.
- Place dried seed capsule over the sheet of paper, or paper plate, and using a fine needle or pointed object, dislodge seed onto the paper surface.
- Gently tapping, shaking, or twisting the dry capsule between two fingers will often release the seed.
- The seed should be gathered along the crease, into the center of the plate or paper.

**Storing the Seed:**

Clean the seed of chaff before storing. Chaff remaining with seed can be a source of fungus growth which can damage seed in storage, or grow if planted with seed.

Some seed may need to rest before being planted. Harvested seed should be stored dry (use silica gel) in closed containers in the refrigerator to prolong life. Some people use pill containers.

**Materials**

- Needle or sharp object.
- Tissues used for setting hair.
- Vials with caps.
- Paper plate or 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper.
- Labels and Marking pen/pencil
- Silica Gel
- *Glassine or bond envelopes* ***(Do not store seed in plastic bags, saran plastic wrap, or waxed paper).***

Store seed in a cool, dry place, as in a refrigerator at about 40 degrees F. Use silica gel to keep moisture from forming. Let the seed come to room temperature before using to prevent sticking together due to condensation if humidity is present. Seeds from berries don't last as long as those from capsules.

**Sowing and Planting**

Prepare working area. It should be clean and free of other items.

- Gather all materials needed:
- Planting mix (sterile) and sphagnum moss
- Seeds and seed log
- Containers for planting (Solo cups)
- Paper plates
- Dividers, if multiple in one pot
- Clear plastic containers (round and square)
- Bond paper (large and half sheets)
- Markers (Fine Point), or soft pencil for labeling, and labels
- Water and watering cans
- Sprayers/misters

**Germination Process**

Germination time is from 1-6 weeks. For some varieties, older seed, and some species, it may be several months. If moldy, open the container and sprinkle lightly with a diluted fungicide solution.

"Patience is a virtue".

**Care After Germination:**

Spritz gently with diluted fertilizer solution to supply nutrients to growing seed, or water from the bottom with diluted fertilizer solution.

Move the growing seeds to a slightly cooler area, but keep them close to the lights. Too much warmth can cause spindly seedlings.

If there is room, you may move new seedlings gently into a germination container to stimulate root growth.

Don't forget to keep a record of germination time, number, etc., on a seed log!

**Transplanting Seedlings**

- Prepare pot with mix to receive seedlings after first or second true leaves appear.
- Use a moist tooth pick, or seafood/cocktail fork, or skewer to pick up a seedling.
- Do not grab the seedling by the stem - you could damage the plant.
- Holding by a strong leaf, gently place the seedling into the prepared hole in the new container.
- You may initially plant several in a group pot and then divide to successively larger pots.
- Transplanting often seems to produce more vigorous plants. Just moving seedlings around in the group pot will stimulate growth.
- Some seedlings will survive for a while in the seeding medium if a diluted fertilizer is applied.

**Transplanting Materials and Tools:**

- New container and cover with soil mix
- Table cover
- Tooth pick
- Mini spoons
- Forceps (plastic if can find them)
- Seafood fork or cocktail forks
- Marking pen or pencil
- Labels for plants

**Sharing your Plants and Seeds**

Share your plants with others so they can learn the joys of sharing their own seed.

**Planting Medium:**

There are a variety of sterile mixes growers prefer. This is one of them:

2 parts Vermiculite
2 parts Perlite
1 part milled Sphagnum moss
1 part NZ Sphagnum moss, expanded from pellets.

Sprinkle the top with 1/8 inch milled (no damp off) Sphagnum moss. This has a natural anti-fungal capacity and prevents damping off and fungus growth.

**Steps for Planting Gesneriad Seeds:**

- Select seed trays or other containers.
- Fill with fine soilless mix and tamp down.
- Put in dividers if desired.
- Plant each seed type in separate pot. Germination times may differ.
- Water gently from bottom or top.
- Sprinkle 1/8 inch milled sphagnum moss on top.
- Spritz with mister to thoroughly wet moss (this can be done ahead to well moisten).
- Label pots or sections of tray with marker and labels, name of seed, and date planted.
- Cut 1 sheet of bond paper 1/2 across. Fold this sheet of paper in half lengthwise.
- Put a few seeds from packet onto folded paper which is placed or held over flat sheet of white paper or a paper plate.
- Don't sneeze or breath too hard over open paper containing seed.
- Plant a few seeds (reserve remainder in case of problems with initial planting).
- Tap folded paper gently and at an angle to distribute seeds evenly and where you want them over the mix.
- Don't plant too many, or too close together. If germination is good, seedlings will become spindly if over-crowded and will be difficult to separate.
- Spray very gently again with water - misting, being careful not to puddle water or shoot seeds around.
- Fill out seed record with name, date planted, and number of seed planted. If planting multiple seed varieties, do this immediately as you plant each seed type.
- Place the container with multiple seedling pots 4-6 inches under fluorescent lights until germination.
- Maintain temperature of 68-85 degrees F (around 75-80 is ideal). To provide warmth, put on top shelf or supply bottom heat if possible.
- Keep covered tightly until germination, then keep covered loosely after the second set of true leaves form.

**Cautions:**

*Do not have the soil mix too shallow. Make it at least 1" deep. If too shallow, it will retain too much water. Seeds need air circulation around them during germination. Do not let soil mix dry out completely or become soggy. Watering from the top could wash seeds away. Either mist gently or water from the bottom. Watch for mold and remove any moldy material with fine forceps.*

**Glossary of Terms:**

**Anther** = the part of the flower which contains the pollen.
**Female phase** = female portion of blossom called pistil. Consists of ovary, style, and stigma and produces the seed.
**Filament** = the part of the stamen which supports the anther.
**Male phase** = the male portion of the blossom, called the stamen. It is tipped with anther which carries the pollen.
**NZ sphagnum moss** = New Zealand sphagnum moss.
**Ovary** = this is where the seed develops.
**Pedicle** = the stem that supports an individual bud or blossom in a cluster of blossoms.
**Peduncle** = the main supporting stem of an entire blossom cluster.
**Pistil** = the seed bearing part of the flower consisting of ovary, style, and stigma.
**Receptive stage** = 2-3 days after blossom is open; it will be in receptive stage for 3-5 days.
**Sepal** = the base the blossom sits in.
**Stamen** = the pollen bearing part of the flower consisting of anther and filament.
**Stigma** = the sticky part of the flower which receives the pollen.
**Style** = the portion of the pistil connecting the stigma and ovary.

## *In Memory*

**Mrs. Helen (Beverly) Moffatt**

Mrs. Helen (Beverly) Moffatt died on November 13, 2003 after a long illness. Beverly was a native of Ohio, living also in California before coming to live in Evans, near Augusta, Georgia about 10 years ago. She was a member of the Georgia State African Violet Council, Georgia African Violet Judges Society, and the African Violet Club of Greater Atlanta. She was an AVSA Senior Judge for many years. Beverly will be missed by all her violet friends.

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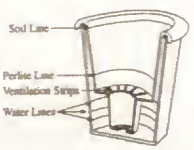

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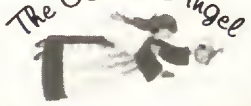


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***ROB'S LUCKY CHARM.*** Deep, orchid-mauve sdbl. pansies over dark green and chartreuse to gold variegation. Very unusual, euonymous-like variegation impervious to heat or age. Easy grower, a must for the serious collector. **Chimera. $20.00**

***ROB'S VANILLA TRAIL.*** Loads and loads of fully dbl. cream to blush-white blooms over very dark, red-backed, semimini *trailing* foliage! Heavy and constant bloomer that trails well and grows very easily. A wonderful, very pretty, plant. **$4.00**

***....plus hundreds of other varieties of ours and other leading hybridizers. See our web-site for pictures!***

## NEW STREPTOCARPUS FOR 2004

Our own hybrids. All are spectacular, and easy to grow and bloom, even in windows. Care identical to violets. **All $4.00 each.**

***BRISTOL'S BLUE BONNET.*** Lovely periwinkle-blue blooms with darker center and distinct butter-yellow eye. Extremely heavy bloomer, always covered with dozens of blooms. Excellent.

***BRISTOL'S DAISY JANE.*** Striking, large white blooms w/thick, very dark crimson brush marks emanating from center. Sure to be an all-time favorite, always in heavy bloom. Wow!!

***BRISOL'S GUM DROP.*** Adorable burgundy pansies held in nice bouquet over compact foliage. Great bloomer. Very cute.

***BRISTOL'S NOSE PRINT.*** Upper petals white, tipped purple, lower petals dark purple-red, then edged white. Very easy grower, always in bloom, and certainly distinctive.

***BRISTOL'S PAJAMA PARTY.*** Deep rose-pink blooms heavily streaked with white fantasy. The best fantasy we've seen of this color. Very unusual and a good bloomer.

***BRISTOL'S PINK LEMONADE.*** Lightly fringed rose-pink blooms with dark maroon stripes on bright yellow lower throat. Good and constant bloomer, very easy grower.

***BRISTOL'S RIBBON CANDY.*** Double bright pink round blooms with dark red veining on white throat. Very profuse and constant bloomer, it's aptly named.

***....dozens more pictured on our web-site!***

### 100'S OF OTHER MINI, TRAILING, AND STANDARD VIOLETS, PLUS GESNERIADS

Including Episcias, Columnea, Nematanthus, Chirita, Begonias, Hoya, and truly miniature houseplants!

**PRICES: $4.50 each for standards, $4.00 each for all other plants.** For shipping beginning April 15, add $12 per order for shipping. Winter shipping by express mail only (call for details)—available to most areas.
**Special Offer: 10 different violets or streps (our choice), $30 plus shipping.** We also ship wholesale.

**WE SHIP ANYWHERE (INTERNATIONALLY), ANYTIME– SAFE DELIVERY GUARANTEED!**

**SEND $2 FOR FULL-COLOR CATALOG, OR VISIT US ONLINE AT *WWW.ROBSVIOLET.COM***

Dr. Ralph (Rob) & Olive Ma Robinson
PO Box 9, Naples, NY 14512

Phone: 585-374-8592 Fax: 585-374-6947
Shop & Greenhouse open daily, 12-5 p.m.

OUR 33RD YEAR

# CAPE COD VIOLETRY


**John & Barbara Cook**
**Dept. AV 28 Minot St. (508) 548-2798**
**Mail order only • Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540**


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WE CARRY ALL THE SPECIES AND THE ORIGINAL 10

Catalog $2.00, Foreign catalog $3.00

Phone (508) 548-2798 - Fax (508) 540-5427 - email violets@cape.com

## PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

| SIZE | COLOR | TYPE | 10 ct | 25 ct | 50 ct | 100 ct | 500 ct |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2-1/8" | Wt. or TC | Rd. Tub | 1.00 | 1.80 | 3.50 | 6.50 | 30.00 |
| 2-1/4" | Gr. or Wt. | Rd. or Sq. | 1.05 | 2.15 | 3.90 | 7.25 | 33.00 |
| 2-3/8" | Wt. or TC | Rd. Tub | 1.10 | 2.25 | 4.25 | 8.00 | 38.00 |
| 2-1/2" | Gr. or Wt. | Rd. or Sq. | 1.15 | 2.40 | 4.55 | 8.60 | 40.50 |
| 3" | Gr. or Wt. | Rd. Tub, Std. Sq. | 1.30 | 2.95 | 5.25 | 9.80 | 44.50 |
| 3-1/2" | Gr. or Wt. | Rd. Tub | 1.45 | 3.60 | 6.60 | 12.00 | 55.00 |
| 4" | Gr. or Wt. | Rd. Tub | 1.75 | 3.85 | 7.25 | 13.50 | 59.40 |
| 4-1/2" | Gr. or Wt. | Rd. Tub | 2.40 | 5.60 | 8.00 | 15.50 | 73.00 |
| 5" | Gr. or Wt. | Rd. Tub | 2.90 | 6.75 | 12.50 | 23.00 | 105.00 |
| 6" | Gr. or Wt. | Rd. Tub | 3.40 | 8.20 | 15.40 | 28.80 | 134.00 |
| 6-1/2" | Gr. or Wt. | Rd. Tub | 4.00 | 9.50 | 18.00 | 34.00 | 160.00 |

## MICRO MINI POTS

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1-1/2" | Terracotta | 1.20 | 2.75 | 4.80 | 9.00 | 39.50 |
| Snap-On Saucer | Terracotta | 1.20 | 2.75 | 4.80 | 9.00 | 39.50 |

## PLASTIC PAN POTS

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5" | Gr. or Wt. | 2-1/2" Deep | 2.90 | 6.75 | 12.50 | 23.00 | 105.00 |
| 6" | Gr. or Wt. | 3-3/4" Deep | 4.10 | 9.75 | 18.50 | 35.00 | 165.00 |
| 7" | Gr. or Wt. | 4" Deep | 6.00 | 14.50 | 28.00 | 54.00 | |
| 8" | Gr. or Wt. | 4" Deep | 7.60 | 18.50 | 36.00 | 70.00 | |

## PLASTIC WICK WATER RESERVOIRS *(Recessed snap-on lids, wicks not included)*

| Size | Height | Diameter | Holds Pot Up To | 10 | 25 | 50 | 100 | 500 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 oz | 1-3/4" | 4-1/2" | 5" | 3.50 | 8.00 | 15.00 | 29.00 | 140.00 |
| 16 oz | 3" | 4-1/2" | 5" | 4.00 | 9.50 | 17.00 | 32.00 | 150.00 |
| 32 oz | 3-1/4" | 6" | 7" | 6.00 | 14.00 | 27.00 | 53.00 | 250.00 |

**Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price**

## PLASTIC LABELS

| | 100 | 500 | 1000 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink | 1.10 | 5.25 | 8.00 |
| 4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow | 1.40 | 6.25 | 11.00 |
| 5" White, Lavender | 1.65 | 7.50 | 14.50 |
| 4 1/2" White only | 2.00 | 9.00 | 17.00 |

## PERMA-NEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

| | 1 | 6 | 12 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4" x 8" x 2-1/2" | 1.00 | 5.50 | 10.75 |
| 8" x 8" x 2-1/2" | 1.60 | 9.00 | 16.80 |
| 8" x 12" x 2-1/2" | 1.75 | 9.90 | 18.60 |
| 11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige | 5.50 | 31.50 | 60.00 |

## CLEAR DOME

Fits 11" x 22" trays $2.25 ea. Dome and Tray combo $7.25 each

## Elisa's African Violet Rings

| | | | 1 | 6 | 12 | 25 | 50 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6" (Mini) | Gr. only | Fits up to 3" pot | 1.00 | 5.25 | 9.75 | 20.00 | 34.50 |
| 9" | Gr. only | Fits 3" to 5" pot | 1.15 | 6.00 | 11.00 | 23.00 | 39.00 |
| 13" | Gr. only | Fits 5" to 8" pot | 1.40 | 7.15 | 13.25 | 24.00 | 42.00 |

## FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.
Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle
Each $3.25, 3 for $9.50, 6 for $18.00, 12 for $34.00

## SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black
$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

**SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:**

48 STATES
East of the Mississippi - $5.25; West of Mississippi - $5.75
West of the Rockies - $6.25; Rural Areas please add $1.50
All Others - Actual Cost
Massachusett Residents include 5% Sales Tax
Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and Phone Number

**PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.**

## DYNA-GRO FERTILIZERS

| Formula | Type | Size / Price 1/2 pt. | 1 pt. | 1 qt. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7-9-5 | Plant Food | $4.95 | $7.95 | $12.00 |
| 3-12-6 | Bloom | 4.95 | 7.95 | 12.00 |
| 9-3-6 | Foliage Pro | 4.95 | | 11.00 |
| 0-0-3 | Pro-Tekt | 4.95 | | 10.00 |
| Concentrate | K-L-N | 10.00 | | |
| Neem Oil | | 7.50 | | 24.50 |
| Dolomite Limestone | | | | 2 lbs./$1.75 |
| Charcoal | | 20 oz. | | 40 oz. |
| No. 4 Coarse or | No. 6 Medium | 1.85 | | 3.50 |
| | | 4 qts. | 8 qts. | 16 qts. |
| Vermiculite | No. 2 Coarse | 1.75 | 3.00 | 5.75 |
| Perlite | Coarse | 1.75 | 3.00 | 5.75 |
| Canadian Peat Moss | | $1.75 | 3.00 | $5.50 |

TROY Capillary watering mat – a full 4 feet wide
$4.00 per running yard – whole yard lengths

## ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

**MANUFACTURER**
WHOLESALE
DISTRIBUTOR
**6" - 9" - 13"**
CLUBS - BUSINESSES
SEND FOR PRICE LIST

## J F INDUSTRIES

AFRICAN VIOLET
LEAF SUPPORTS
5 SIZES
6" fits up to 3" pot
9" & 12" fit up to 5" pot
15" & 18" fit up to 8" pot

J F INDUSTRIES
28 Minot St.
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(508) 548-2798

## PHYSAN 20

8 oz. - $4.95
16 oz. - $7.25
32 oz. - $13.50
1 gal. - $35.00

## SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - $3.00
1 oz. - $4.25
2 oz. - $6.00
4 oz. - $9.25

## DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

## OYAMA PLANTERS

1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3-1/2"
4"-5"-6"

## FLORA CART

Light Stands

## KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - $21.50